

POSTAL GREETINGS

The secret message of Christmas cards

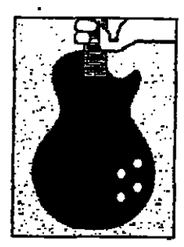
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WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Moscow's fascism lacks the technology

From Russia with fear, page 16



WIN THE TOP 100

Chance to own the all-time best albums

Rock competition, page 5

30P

THE TIMES

No. 64,828 THURSDAY DECEMBER 16 1993

• Major and Reynolds sign • IRA challenged to talk • Paisley cries treachery

Ulster deal opens door to lasting peace

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

■ With the door to peace opened, London and Dublin were last night waiting for a response from Ulster's men of violence

BRITAIN and Ireland were nervously awaiting a response from the IRA last night after John Major and Albert Reynolds stood shoulder to shoulder and challenged the men of violence to put down their weapons and negotiate a permanent peace in Northern Ireland.

The two leaders appeared to have scored a striking negotiating success with their historic peace accord, which won widespread backing at Westminster and the Dail, leaving the hardliners isolated.

Standing in front of a Christmas tree in Downing Street, the two men urged the terrorists to grasp this opportunity for peace, saying another may not come their way. The joint declaration holds out the prospect of Sinn Fein joining talks on the future of the province within three months if the IRA renounces violence for good.

But last night a leading member of Sinn Fein expressed disappointment at the seven-page declaration, although the party chairman in Ulster said there would be an in-depth study of the accord. There was no word from Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, or from the IRA.

At Westminster, Mr Major won warm support from his own MPs, Labour and the Liberal Democrats, while the entire Irish cabinet turned out to welcome Mr Reynolds and his team back to Dublin.

By both strengthening the guarantee that Northern Ireland would remain as part of the United Kingdom and giving explicit acknowledgment to the aspirations of those who seek a united Ireland, Mr Major managed to please John Hume of the SDLP and avoid condemnation from James Molyneaux's Ulster Unionists. But, as expected, there was a vitriolic reaction from the hardline Democratic Unionists, with the Rev Ian Paisley accusing him of "treachery" and Peter Robinson, alleging betrayal.

Rightwing Conservative MPs, too, voiced worries over the concessions to the nationalists in the carefully constructed language of the declaration. Although Mr Major emphasised that he had breached none of the fundamental constitutional principles upon which he had entered the talks, their concern was that he had allowed himself to appear neutral over whether Northern Ireland remained in the UK.

The Prime Minister was cheered in the Commons as he told MPs that Ulster's constitutional guarantee was "rock solid" as a result of the declaration. But in it he also accepted the possibility of a united Ireland "by agreement between the two parts respectively" and "on the basis of consent, freely and concurrently given, north and south" — in effect two separate referendums.

During the negotiations that went on until late on Tuesday, Mr Major rejected plans for a single referendum involving all the people of Ireland and Mr Reynolds's call for an all-Ireland convention. He also repeated to MPs that Britain would not try to persuade the north of the value or legitimacy of a united Ireland, although the declaration states that Britain has no "selfish strategic or economic interest in Northern Ireland".

The accord represented an opportunity to move from a violent path, Mr Major said: "It is an opportunity that no one can compel the men of violence to take. It is in their hands now to decide whether to take that opportunity and move towards a legitimate political path in future. If terrorism were to continue after this statement, after this declaration with the suppport that it has been given, it will be clearly understood by everyone that those people who engage in terrorism do not in any way genuinely seek a settlement but simply wish to inflict murder and terror continuously."

John Smith, the Labour leader, welcomed the declaration with enthusiasm, saying: "We fervently hope that it will be an important first step in a peace process which will lead to a new political settlement."

Mr Molyneaux, whose tacit backing is vital to the success of the initiative, spoke of a "tortuously worded statement with many contradictions", but Mr Major was ready with swift assurance on all the detailed points raised by the Unionist leader, who has been kept informed of the progress of the talks.

Mr Major was involved in an angry clash with Dr Pais-

Continued on page 3, col 3

Enoch Powell

"Stop being seen to be thrusting Ulster out of the UK, give our fellow citizens in the six counties the same rights and the same form of government as we in Great Britain take for granted" 16



John Major and Albert Reynolds in a co-ordinated display of unity at their Downing Street press conference yesterday morning

Gambler Major takes his toughest risk



Peter Riddell believes that the Ulster negotiations have played to John Major's strengths. But new skills are now required

AS journalists climbed the stairs in 10 Downing Street yesterday for the announcement of the joint declaration on Northern Ireland, they passed portraits of the many British prime ministers from Pitt onwards who failed to bring peace to Ireland over two centuries — as well as the photograph of the one, David Lloyd George, who achieved a temporary "solution" lasting nearly half a century. But is John Major a Lloyd George? Is he really a risk taker?

Mr Major has taken to describing himself as a gambler. You, the press, always say I am boring, but look at the chances I have taken, over the Maastricht bill, the vote of confidence last July and now over Northern Ireland.

The potential gains for Mr Major are clear. The public may not care much about Ireland, but, if Mr Major engineered a deal to end the killing, that should revive his popularity. It would strengthen him where he is currently weak, underlining his competence, decisiveness and toughness. A lasting settlement might not be an election winner for the Tories, but it might ensure Mr Major's survival as Prime Minister.

The downsides are more complicated. The outcome is unlikely to be clear for some time, to judge by the guarded reactions from most parties, particularly from James Molyneaux and the Official Unionists. Only Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists expressed outright opposition yesterday, though there were private rumblings from the Tory right about the integrity of the United Kingdom. Both success and failure are anyway relative. No one expects either immediate harmony or a complete breakdown.

Mr Major believes he has a special, possibly unique, opportunity to achieve a breakthrough. He has made the initiative his priority.

The new feature is the glimmer of hope that the IRA finally accepts the futility of the killing. That was first

Continued on page 2, col 3

CHRISTMAS MADE EASY



● Pavarotti on Channel 4 or *Only Fools and Horses* on BBC1? *Field of Dreams* on ITV or Michael Palin on BBC2?

● Plan your Christmas viewing with the bumper Christmas and New Year edition of Vision, in *The Times* this Saturday.

● A special 52-page Vision will give full listings for television and radio for the 15 days from December 18 to January 1. It will have details of 200 films as well as *Times* critics' choices of the best of arts, drama, documentaries, comedy, children's programmes and sport.

● With *The Times* Magazine, the Weekend section, news, sport, business and Vision, this Saturday's *Times* at 40p will be essential reading for Christmas.

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Bottomley sounds death knell for Bart's

By Jeremy Laurance
Health Services Correspondent

VIRGINIA Bottomley delivered a *coup de grâce* to St Bartholomew's yesterday signalling the end of one of London's most famous hospitals.

Announcing the closure of the casualty department, expected in October 1994, the Health Secretary set the bell tolling for the hospital which has stood on the same site in Smithfield for nearly 870 years. The decision is the first of a series that will lead to sweeping changes to the capital's hospitals. Further announcements on Guy's and St Thomas', the Royal Marsden, Charing Cross and Hammersmith hospitals will be made in the New Year.

St Bartholomew's, founded in 1125 to care for the sick poor of the City of London, is the only one of the medieval London hospitals still to occupy its original site. Mrs Bottomley said some services, including cancer, Aids and day surgery, would remain at least until the end of the century but others would be merged with the Royal London hospital in Whitechapel. "Its name will live on," she said.

The long term future of the hospital now depends on its attracting private investment. Negotiations are underway with a consortium of city companies led by the Corporation of London.

Closure 'disaster', page 4

Sighs of relief as hammer falls on Gatt talking shop

From George Brock in Geneva

WITH very little sense of occasion but with a huge sigh of relief, 117 countries last night ended more than seven years of grinding negotiation by agreeing a historic trade liberalisation treaty.

Peter Sutherland, director-general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt), warned a hall full of ambassadors that the time for wrangling over footnotes was over and banged down a mahogany gavel to close talks on a 5,000-page document which details the most ambitious commitments on open trade ever made.

The Uruguay round negotiations ended less than 12 hours before the deadline set by the expiry of President Clinton's negotiating authority. The American president can now present the treaty to the US Congress, which must either approve or reject the deal but cannot amend it.

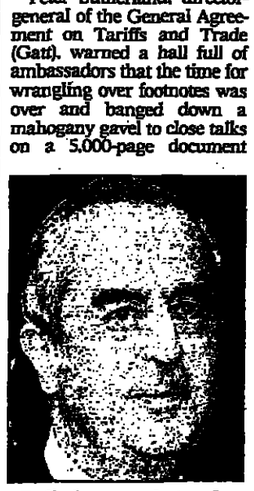
Mr Sutherland said that the treaty was a "momentous achievement" which would mean "more trade, more investment, more jobs and larger income growth for all, producers and consumers".

Gatt, often known as the General Agreement to Talk and Talk, frayed nerves until the closing seconds. Ambassadors insisted on making closing speeches before Mr Sutherland banged the gavel. Most of the treaty was written in 1991 but the endgame was postponed by a three-year hitch between the EC and America.

Third World ambassadors moaned about the arrogance of Europe and America. Every comma has its history, the Indonesian ambassador said with feeling. Mr Sutherland looked profoundly bored. He had not been to bed for several nights and had spent four hours early yesterday changing one word to settle a last-minute textile dispute.

Edouard Balladur, the French Prime Minister, looked certain to win a vote of confidence in Parliament following what has been seen as a French triumph in the talks.

The muted finale was at odds with the scope of the changes that will still be shrinking trade barriers into the next century. But when the hammer fell, several hundred suits rose in spontaneous gratitude for the end of seven years' hard labour.



Balladur: certain to win vote of confidence

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Trade breakthrough, page 24

House price boom predicted for 1994

By Rachel Kelly
Property Correspondent

HOUSE prices will rise by 19 per cent across the country next year, and by 25 per cent in the prime areas of London, according to the research department of Savills estate agent. Savills accurately predicted a fall of 8 per cent for prime central London property in 1991 and a rise of 11 per cent in the same market this year.

Previous forecasts have also predicted rises next year. John Wriglesworth, housing market analyst at city brokers UBS, has predicted a 7 per cent rise. Yolande Barnes, head of residential research at Savills, said that the turning point came last year when sterling withdrew from the ERM. "Low interest rates and rising disposable incomes mean that houses have never been more affordable. Past house price cycles show that high price rises follow periods when it is easy for people to afford to buy," she said.

The recovery began at the top of the market, buoyed by foreign buyers who took advantage of the pound's devaluation and has already filtered down, Ms Barnes said. "Next year will see the bounce-back from artificially low prices over the last two years."

As in previous cycles, the recovery has spread from London out to the home counties and beyond. Savills offices in Guildford and Sevenoaks in particular saw extraordinary interest, especially from overseas buyers, this spring and summer.

Ms Barnes said: "The effect has rippled down from expensive houses in core areas to cheaper houses in peripheral areas. All properties are benefiting from the increase in activity at the top of the market: it's the pull factor."

No bar to future, page 2
Unionists assured, page 3
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Two leaders give ground to each other to square the circle of unionist and nationalist demands

No bar to a united Ireland, Major promises

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

JOHN Major and Albert Reynolds gave ground to each other in framing the joint declaration that they hope will pave the way to peace and a lasting political settlement in Northern Ireland.

An explicit acknowledgement by Mr Reynolds of the right of Northern Ireland to remain a part of the United Kingdom for so long as its people wish was balanced by a surprisingly strong pledge by Mr Major that Britain would not stand in the way of a united Ireland. Mr Reynolds, as expected, promised to put the republic's territorial claim to the North to a referendum as part of an overall constitutional settlement, while both of them held out an invitation to Sinn Fein to enter the talks process after the IRA renounced violence.

Mr Reynolds said at the joint Downing Street press conference that the declaration proved that the British Government was in no sense an enemy of the rights of the nationalist tradition, and that the Irish Government was in no sense an enemy of the rights of the unionist tradition.

The attempt to square that circle was at the heart of the two-year search by Mr Reynolds and Mr Major, culminating in the last few frantic weeks of shuttle diplomacy, that led, after more than 20 drafts, to yesterday's historic document.

Paragraphs four and five of the seven-page paper were the passages the two leaders and their officials sweated over longest. They will ultimately determine the fate of the the enterprise.

The fierce negotiations of the past few weeks have been based on what was originally an Irish draft. The rows have been on the items that Mr Major wanted removed: and it was disclosed last night that those included proposals for an all-Ireland convention, any proposals for structures that could be interpreted as joint authority over Northern Ireland, and a suggestion that self-determination should be achieved by the people of Ireland as a whole, not separately.

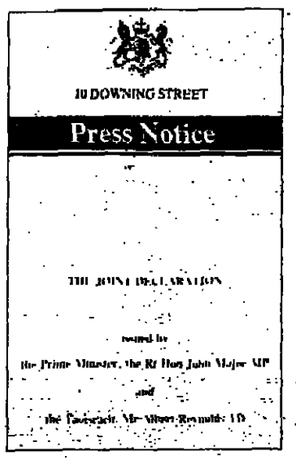
What surprised most observers of the painstaking quest for mutually acceptable language was Mr Major's readiness to countenance Irish unity. In the critical paragraph setting out his position, the words "united Ireland" appear three times.

He told the press conference that the message was that "anybody who wants to stay in our home can stay as long as they wish".

But his declaration makes plain that the people of Northern Ireland would not be forced to stay against their will — a stance that many unionists will find less than fully welcoming.

While Mr Major promises that the British Government will "uphold the democratic wish of a greater number of the people of Northern Ireland on the issue of whether they prefer to support the Union or a sovereign united Ireland", he asserts that it has "no selfish strategic or economic interest in Northern Ireland".

Then in a key section the British Government outlines the route that might lead to a united Ireland. It accepts that a political settlement "may, as of right, take the form of agreed structures for the island as a whole, including a united Ireland achieved by peaceful means on the following basis". Then comes the sentence that gave rise to the greatest contention. "The British Government agree that it is for the people of the island of Ireland alone, by agreement between the two parts respectively, to exercise their right of self-determination on the basis of consent, freely and concurrently given, North and South, to bring about a united Ireland, if that is their wish."


10 DOWNING STREET

Press Notice

THE JOINT DECLARATION

issued by

the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon John Major MP

and

the Taoiseach, Mr Albert Reynolds TD

A senior British negotiator last night called this "the Christmas tree sentence" upon which everything could be hung. "We had to ensure that none of the words gave away any of our basic principles," it was said.

The implication is that Mr Major would be prepared to see a united Ireland come about as the result of simultaneous but separate referendums in the North and South at some future date.

One of the main sticking-points in the negotiations was Dublin's demand for expression to be given to the right of the people of all-Ireland to determine their future. Mr Major is prepared to use the phrase "self-determination", but makes plain that the North's veto on change is paramount. He does accept, however, that if the North voted for a united Ireland he would as a "binding obligation" introduce the necessary legislation to dissolve the union.

For his part, Mr Reynolds gave his strongest ever commitment to the principle that constitutional change in Ulster could come about only with the consent of its people. He says: "Stability and well-being will not be found under any political system which is refused allegiance or rejected on grounds of identity by a significant minority of those governed by it.

"For this reason it would be wrong to impose a united Ireland, in the absence of the freely given consent of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland."

There follows his assertion of the doctrine of self-determination, but he expresses it in a way intended to reassure the unionists. He says: "The democratic right of self-determination by the people of Ireland as a whole must be achieved and exercised with, and subject to, the agreement and consent of the majority of the people of Northern Ireland and must, consistent with justice and equity, respect the democratic dignity and the civil rights and religious liberties of both communities."

In other words, self-determination for the Irish people is, in Mr Reynolds's view, subordinate to the wishes of the six counties.

He goes to great lengths to assure the unionists he will not try to force them into a united Ireland. The document says: "Both governments accept that Irish unity would be achieved only by those who favour this outcome persuading those who do not, peacefully and without coercion or violence ..."

The Irish leader couches his pledge of a referendum on dropping Dublin's claim to the North in a way that will worry even moderate unionists. He says that "in the event of an overall settlement, the Irish Government will, as part of a balanced constitutional accommodation, put forward proposals for change in the Irish constitution which would fully reflect the principle of consent in Northern Ireland." The phrase "balanced constitutional accommodation" is regarded by the unionists as Dublin's code for joint sovereignty over the North and a break-up of the United Kingdom.

Declaration signed, and Peter Riddell, page 1
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Prime Ministers pledge to tackle legacy of troubled history

This is an edited text of the joint declaration issued by John Major and Albert Reynolds:

Albert Reynolds and John Major acknowledge that the most urgent and important issue facing the people of Ireland, North and South, and the British and Irish Governments together, is to remove the causes of conflict, to overcome the legacy of history and to heal the divisions which have resulted, recognising that the absence of a lasting and satisfactory settlement of relationships between the peoples of both islands has contributed to continuing tragedy and suffering. They believe that the development of an agreed framework for peace, which has been discussed between them since early last year, and which is based on a number of key principles articulated by the two Governments over the past 20 years, together with the adaptation of other widely accepted principles, provides the starting point of a peace process designed to culminate in a political settlement.

The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister are convinced of the inestimable value, to both their peoples, and particularly for the next generation, of healing divisions in Ireland and of ending a conflict which has been so manifestly to the detriment of all. Both recognise that the ending of divisions can come about only through the agreement and co-operation of the people, North and South, representing both traditions in Ireland. They therefore make a solemn commitment to promote co-operation at all levels on the basis of the fundamental principles, undertakings, obligations under international agreements, to which they have jointly committed themselves, and the guarantees which each Government has given and now reaffirms, including Northern Ireland's statutory constitutional guarantee. It is their aim to foster agreement and reconciliation, leading to a new political framework founded on consent and encompassing arrangements within Northern Ireland, for the whole island and between these islands. They also consider that the development of Europe will, of itself, require new approaches to serve interests common to both parts of the island of Ireland, and to Ireland and the United Kingdom as partners in the European Union.

The Prime Minister, on behalf of the British Government, reaffirms that they will uphold the democratic wish of a greater number of the people of Northern Ireland on the issue of whether they prefer to support the Union or a sovereign united Ireland. On this basis, he reiterates ... that they have no selfish strategic or economic interest in Northern Ireland. Their primary interest is to see peace, stability and reconciliation established by agreement among all the people who inhabit the island, and they will work together with the Irish Government to achieve such an agreement ... The role of the British Government will be to encourage, facilitate and enable the achievement of such agreement over a period through a process of dialogue and co-operation based on full respect for the rights and identities of both traditions in Ireland. They accept that such agreement may, as of right, take the form of agreed structures for the island as a whole, including a united Ireland achieved by peaceful means on the following basis. The British Government agree that it is for the people of the island of Ireland alone, by agreement between the two parts respectively, to exercise their right of self-determination on the basis of consent, freely and concurrently given, North and South, to bring about a united Ireland, if that is their wish. They reaffirm as a binding obligation that they will, for their part, introduce the necessary legislation to give effect to this, or equally to any measure of agreement on future relationships in Ireland which the people living in Ireland may themselves freely so determine ... They believe that the people of Britain would wish, in friendship to all sides, to enable the people of Ireland to reach agreement on how they may live together in harmony and in partnership, with respect for their diverse traditions, and with full recognition of the special links and the unique relationship which exists between the peoples of Britain and Ireland.


John Major, left, and Albert Reynolds with their declaration at Downing Street yesterday

The Taoiseach, on behalf of the Irish Government, considers that the lessons of Irish history, and especially of Northern Ireland, show that stability and well-being will not be found under any political system which is refused allegiance or rejected on grounds of identity by a significant minority of those governed by it. For this reason, it would be wrong to attempt to impose a united Ireland, in the absence of the freely given consent of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland. He accepts, on behalf of the Irish Government, that the democratic right of self-determination by the people of Ireland as a whole must be achieved and exercised with and subject to the agreement and consent of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland and must, consistent with justice and equity, respect the democratic dignity and the civil rights and religious liberties of both communities, including:

☐ The right of free political thought:
☐ The right to freedom and expression of religion:
☐ The right to pursue democratically national and political aspirations:
☐ The right to seek constitutional change by peaceful and legitimate means:
☐ The right to live wherever one chooses without hindrance:
☐ The right to equal opportunity in all social and economic activity, regardless of class, creed, sex or colour ...

The Taoiseach however recognises the genuine difficulties and barriers to building relationships of trust either within or beyond Northern Ireland, from which both traditions suffer. He will work to create a new era of trust ... He considers that the future of the island depends on the nature of the relationship between the two main traditions that inhabit it ... In recognition of the fears of the Unionist community and as a token of his willingness to make a personal contribution to the building up of that necessary trust, the Taoiseach will examine with his colleagues any elements in the democratic life and organisation of the Irish state that can be represented to the Irish Government in the course of political dialogue as a real and substantial threat to their way of life and ethos, or that can be represented as not being fully consistent with a modern democratic and pluralist society, and undertakes to examine any possible ways of removing such obstacles. Such an examination would of course have due regard to the desire to preserve those inherited values that are largely shared throughout the island or that belong to the cultural and historical roots of the people of this island in all their diversity. The Taoiseach hopes that over time a meeting of hearts and minds will develop, which will bring all the people of Ireland together, and will work towards that objective, but he pledges in the meantime that as a result of the efforts that will be made to build mutual confidence no Northern Unionist should ever have to fear in future that this ideal will be pursued either by threat or coercion.

Both Governments accept that Irish unity would be achieved only by those who favour this outcome persuading those who do not, peacefully and without coercion or violence, and that, if in the future a majority of the people of Northern Ireland are so persuaded, both Governments will support and give legislative effect to their wish.

But, notwithstanding the solemn affirmation by both Governments in the Anglo-Irish Agreement that any change in the status of Northern Ireland would only come about with the consent of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland, the Taoiseach also recognises the continuing uncertainties and misgivings which dominate so much of Northern Unionist attitudes towards the rest of Ireland. He believes that we stand at a stage of our history when the genuine feelings of all traditions in the North must be recognised and acknowledged. He appeals to both traditions ... to grasp the opportunity for a fresh start and a new beginning ... He asks the people of Northern Ireland to look on the people of the Republic as friends, who share their grief and shame over all the suffering of the last quarter of a century ... The Taoiseach also acknowledges the presence in the constitution of the Republic of elements which are deeply resented by Northern Unionists, but which at the same time reflect hopes and ideals which lie deep in the hearts of many Irish men and women North and South. But ... the Taoiseach believes that the time has come to consider together how best the hopes and identities of all can be expressed in more balanced ways, which no longer engender division and the lack of trust to which he has referred. He confirms that, in the event of an overall settlement, the Irish Government will, as part of a balanced constitutional accommodation, put forward and support proposals for change in the Irish Constitution which would fully reflect the principle of consent in Northern Ireland.

The Taoiseach recognises the need to engage in dialogue which would address with honesty and integrity the fears of all traditions. But that dialogue, both within the North and between the people and their representatives of both parts of Ireland, must be entered into with an acknowledgement that the future security and welfare of the people of the island will depend on an open, frank and balanced approach to all the problems which for too long have caused division.

The British and Irish Governments will seek, along with the Northern Ireland constitutional parties through a process of political dialogue, to create institutions and structures which, while respecting the diversity of the people of Ireland, would enable them to work together in all areas of common interest. This will help over a period to build the trust necessary to end past divisions, leading to an agreed and peaceful future. Such structures would, of course, include institutional recognition of the special links that exist between the peoples of Britain and Ireland ... while taking account of newly forged links with the rest of Europe.

The British and Irish Governments reiterate that the achievement of peace must involve a permanent end to the use of, or support for, paramilitary violence. They confirm that, in these circumstances, democratically mandated parties which establish a commitment to exclusively peaceful methods and which have shown that they abide by the democratic process, are free to participate fully in democratic politics and to join in dialogue in due course between the Governments and the political parties on the way ahead.

The Irish Government would make their own arrangements within their jurisdiction to enable democratic parties to consult together and share in dialogue about the political future. The Taoiseach's intention is that these arrangements could include the establishment, in consultation with other parties, of a Forum for Peace and Reconciliation to make recommendations on ways in which agreement and trust between both traditions in Ireland can be promoted and established.

The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister ... believe the framework they have set out offers the people of Ireland, North and South, whatever their tradition, the basis to agree that from now on their differences can be negotiated and resolved exclusively by peaceful political means.

They appeal to all concerned to grasp the opportunity for a new departure. That step would compromise no position or principle, nor prejudice the future for either community. On the contrary, it would be an incomparable gain for all. It would break decisively the cycle of violence and the intolerable suffering it entails for the people of these islands, particularly for both communities in Northern Ireland. It would allow the process of economic and social co-operation on the island to realise its full potential for prosperity and mutual understanding. It would transform the prospect for building on the progress already made in the talks process, involving the two governments and the constitutional parties in Northern Ireland. The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister believe that these arrangements offer an opportunity to lay the foundations for a more peaceful and harmonious future devoid of the violence and bitter divisions which have scarred the past generation. They commit themselves and their Governments to continue to work together, unremittingly, towards that objective.

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Major stakes his future on Ulster

Continued from page 1

signalled by the disputed IRA message last February that "the conflict is over" and reinforced by the subsequent contacts and intelligence assessments. The Government is unsure about IRA attitudes, but this possiblity has spurred Mr Major to push the initiative.

Negotiating the declaration has played to his strengths. He is adept at handling details and nuances, of which the statement is full. As an instinctive whip, he is good at handling people. He has briefed the Cabinet at each stage. Most ministers believe it is a chance worth taking, trust his judgment and wish him well, but they are not over-confident of success.

Above all, they believe it is vital to retain the backing of Mr Molyneaux's Official Unionists, since their nine votes could keep the Tories in office. Mr Major has been careful to keep him and his party fully informed, and so far at least half on board. Mr Major is prepared for the hostility of the Democratic Unionists, though apprehensive that Mr Paisley could rally Protestant opinion and push the Official Unionists into opposition.

The key is the response of the IRA. Even if there is not a renunciation of violence, there could be a split, as in the 1920s when the Irish Republic was formed. Mr Major can hope to isolate those who want to continue the violence and achieve some settlement between the main constitutional parties backed by Dublin and, also crucially, by Washington.

But the new phase will require different political skills. Peter Rowland, one of Lloyd George's biographers, described how he achieved the 1921 treaty by a combination of "patient, conciliatory discussions, sudden storms of rage, truculence one moment and sweet reasonableness the next, pleadings, wooings, threats, frankness, generosity and guile."

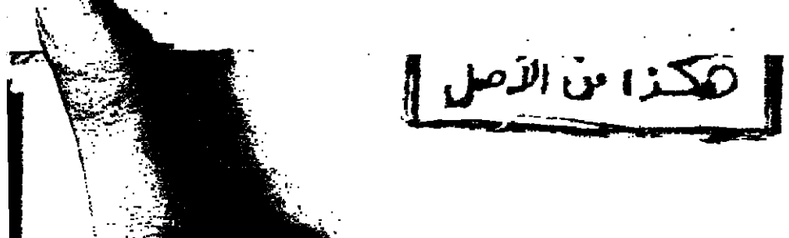
Mr Major has so far displayed only some of those qualities. He will remember that within less than a year of this triumph Lloyd George was out of Downing Street, never to return.

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No sell-out, fiery Major assures unionists

BY JILL SHERMAN, ROBERT MORGAN AND ALICE THOMSON

JOHN Major hit out angrily in the Commons yesterday at accusations that the peace accord was a "sell-out act of treachery".

In a fiery response to remarks from Ian Paisley, Democratic Unionist leader, the Prime Minister said he wanted to see "no more bloodshed and no more coffins carried away week after week" because politicians did not have the courage to sit down and pursue a solution.

In a statement to the Commons on the joint declaration, Mr Major went out of his way to reassure the unionists that the agreement was not a "sell-out" on the Government's constitutional principles. He gave the Ulster Unionists a "rock solid" pledge that Northern Ireland would remain part of the United Kingdom for as long as the majority in the province wished it.

He was backed by most Tory MPs and won a warm response from John Smith, the Labour leader. John Hume, leader of the nationalist SDLP, warned against "knee-jerk reactions". James Molyneaux, the Ulster Unionist leader, was more cautious, describing the declaration as a "tortuously worded statement with many contradictions".

It was left to Mr Paisley of the Democratic Unionists to give an outright condemnation of the accord. He found it offensive that if the IRA ceased its violence within three months it would be invited to sit down for constitutional talks without having to give up weapons or bomb-making material. Mr Major's constituents had not been butchered or murdered, he said. "Maybe you would like to sit down with the godfathers of the people who do it . . ."

To cheers from both sides of the House, Mr Major retorted: "The purpose of this agreement and this document is to make sure that 25 years from now your successor does not sit there saying that to the prime minister of the day."

Earlier, doing his best to appease the loyalists, Mr Major emphasised that there would be a united Ireland only if agreement were reached between the two parts of the island "on the basis of consent, freely and concurrently given, North and South".

Seeking to stop "misleading speculation" about moves towards a united Ireland, he said: "This fully protects the position of the majority in Northern Ireland and means that change could only come about with their consent."

Mr Major argued that the declaration set out a clear framework under which differences could be negotiated and resolved "exclusively by peaceful political means".

"If there is a permanent end to violence and if Sinn Fein commit themselves to the democratic process, then we will be ready to enter into preliminary exploratory dialogue with them within three months." He added: "That is a political route that they now have no excuse not to follow."

Mr Major offered to meet all of the constitutional parties in Northern Ireland to hear their concerns and explain the Government's position.

Mr Molyneaux called on him to give an assurance that "the drift" over the past 20 years from the affairs of Northern Ireland being an internal matter for the UK Parliament would be halted under his premiership.

Although Mr Molyneaux was sceptical about the "tortuously worded statement", he said it appeared to bring some finality to the secret discussions "which had destabilised the province over recent months".

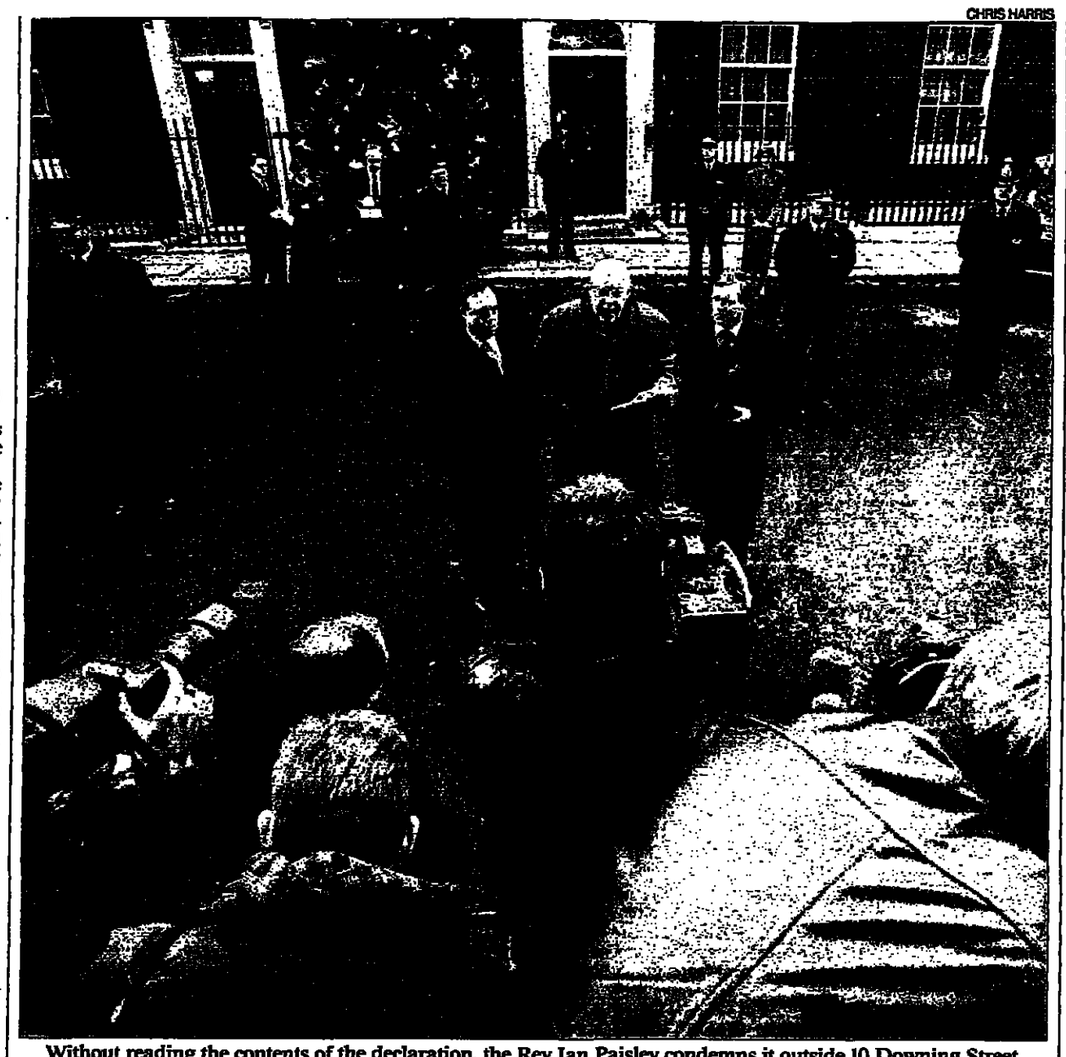
Mr Hume expressed deep appreciation for the work done by the Prime Minister and Albert Reynolds, and called on all concerned to read the declaration fully and study it carefully before responding and "to have no knee-jerk reactions".

Declaration signed, and Peter Riddell, page 1
Enoch Powell, and Peter Brookes, page 16
Leading article, page 17



Molyneaux: "tortuously worded statement"

CHRIS HARRIS



Without reading the contents of the declaration, the Rev Ian Paisley condemns it outside 10 Downing Street

'Let us go forward from here, and halt the flow of tears ...'

BY NICHOLAS WATT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

MONTHS of delicate negotiations by Albert Reynolds paid off in Dublin last night as the Downing Street declaration won cross-party support. Mr Reynolds was given a standing ovation in the Dáil last night by MPs as he outlined the agreement. He was hailed as the peacemaker who had achieved more in two years than his predecessor Charles Haughey had ever managed.

Susan McHugh, the Dublin housewife who launched Peace '93 after the IRA bomb in Warrington which killed two children, said she hoped the declaration would halt the flow of tears in Ulster. "Let us go forward from here," she said. "There is nothing we can do about the past, but we can do something for the future."

Mrs McHugh, 38, said that Protestant and Catholic tears were the same. "We met people on both sides of the conflict and many victims of violence and they all said it's got to stop."

Others in Ulster were not so pleased. Standing within feet of the crater left by the IRA bomb attack on the Shankill Road in October, Stephen Quile, 29, condemned the declaration as the first step towards Irish unity.

Mr Quile, who has only ever known a violent Northern Ireland, said he would rather see the troubles continue than capitulate to Dublin. "The meeting in London will inflame the loyalist paramilitaries," he said. "As long as Ulster stays under the Queen's sovereignty I will be happy, but if it joins a united Ireland the loyalist people will become like the IRA."

Some Unionists warned of war while others said they were so disillusioned they were thinking of leaving the province. The declaration's commitment to uphold the will of the majority in Northern Ireland did nothing to allay their fears of an encroaching Dublin.

In a pub on the Shankill Road festooned with Union Jacks, the talk was of war. One man, who did not want to be named, said: "We will start a war before they bring about a united Ireland. The British Prime Minister is treacherous to talk about unity. He has seriously let us down."

Moderate Unionists in Hillsborough said that for the first time they agreed with the Rev Ian Paisley rather than James Molyneaux, the local MP and leader of the Ulster Unionists.

One woman, who did not want to be named, said: "I am terrified of a united Ireland because at partition the Protestants in the south were driven out. If we were ruled by Dublin our civil rights would be suppressed by a Catholic administration."

In the border areas, where the IRA has been brutally effective, there was equal fear. Alistair McKeown, a former policeman from Augher who was paralysed in an IRA ambush three days before the signing of the Anglo-Irish agreement, said: "What was [my injury for]? Probably for a united Ireland and we thought it was for the opposite." His pessimism was underlined as he attended the funeral yesterday of Andrew Beacom, an RUC officer who was killed with a colleague in an IRA ambush on Sunday in Co Tyrone.

The Catholic population greeted the news more joyfully. "Happy days," exclaimed Joe McQue as news of the declaration reached the Falls Road.

Many were delighted to hear that self-determination had been included.

In a shopping centre on the Falls Road, yards from the Milltown cemetery where IRA volunteers are buried, Mr McQue said he was confident the declaration would appeal to the IRA. "This is the best news in a long time," he said. "The IRA has hit a brick wall. They know that if they keep terrorising the British army they won't get a united Ireland."

His optimism was tempered by the Unionist condemnation of the declaration. "If only Paisley would shut up we would see peace," Mr McQue said.

Another local was equally worried by Dr Paisley's attitude. Eugene Burns said: "It is not helpful that he denounced the declaration before he had even read it. As long as there are bigots like that there will be no way forward."

On the Falls Road, fresh graffiti urged support for the Hume-Adams peace initiative. "Give Peace a Chance" and "Real Talks Now" have been daubed on the walls of the Royal Victoria hospital near Sinn Fein's headquarters.

Some nationalists in the Falls shared the party's cautious response to the declaration. Joe McKeown said: "I don't think we will ever get peace because in a united Ireland the Unionists would become like the IRA. But I hope I am wrong."

Nationalists in the border areas called on unionists to see the positive sides of Irish

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Confidence adds decibels and a catlike command

The Prime Minister has a new voice. The change is slight, but perceptible. The vocal chords have relaxed; he has grown less afraid of pauses; and pace and pitch have loosened. There is more light and shade, and his delivery is less strained. *Something* — something intangible — has clicked into place.

Ian Paisley's voice is changing, too. The boom is turning to a bleat, and the timing grows less certain. He looks and sounds a little flustered. It is as though, in some invisible control room, a technician has made a small adustment, removing a measure of acoustical depth from Paisley and transferring it to Major.

Yesterday's statement on the Anglo-Irish declaration gave the PM a fine opportunity to rehearse his more confident style. Though treading with infinite care, he moved quite lightly through his text, and his answers sounded defter and less wooden than of old. There was something catlike in his command.

For the truth is that he had edged the Ulster Unionists into a cruel dilemma. The suspicious-minded — and a Unionist is not elected to be trusting — could see that the declaration might be the start of something unwelcome. But it certainly didn't say so. Its wording (and Major's reassuring style) made it impossible for them to air their fears without appearing paranoid.

Paisley and his lieutenant, Peter Robinson (DUP, Belfast E), did not care if they did sound paranoid, kicking their way out of the dilemma by roundly condemning the declaration. But at cost to their Commons credibility: Major knocked both down roughly, and carried the House with him. The growing confidence with which ministers now swipe at the DUP is a sub-plot in this developing drama.

The House is an essentially English place. It dislikes Celtic mistrustfulness, and is quickly impatient with grievances in Scots, Welsh or Irish accents. Jim Molyneaux and his Official Unionists found themselves in an alien Chamber, presented with something they instinctively distrusted, but unable to say why in any way which would command respect.

One after the other — first Molyneaux, then John D Taylor (Strangford), Ken Maginnis (Fermanagh & S Tyrone), Roy Beggs (Antrim E) and others — they stumbled through ungracious but unwarlike responses. If the peace process works, history will record their heroism in not blocking it; but at the time the posture looked awkward and uncertain: clouded by doubt, but afraid to strike.

Nobody gave Major much trouble. Among Tory backbenchers, hostile voices were from the usual suspects. Dennis Skinner assisted the Prime Minister by not supporting him, and Tony Benn was only a shade too sympathetic for comfort. Tony Marlow (C, Northampton N) asked if Major actually *wanted* the Northern Irish to prefer the Union. Marlow carries no clout, and the House decided not to notice the PM's interesting failure to answer.

There were lighter moments. Henry Bellingham (C, Norfolk NW) thought more sporting fixtures might help to break down the divide. Like Celtic v Rangers, I suppose? And Nick Budgen (C, Wolverhampton SW), a persistent and clever rebel, asked if Britain saw any national interest in holding on to Wolverhampton. Independence for Wolverhampton would be Budgen's nightmare scenario, as he would be obliged to form his own party, then rebel against his own leadership.

"Don't tempt me," laughed John Major, in his new voice.

Door opened to a lasting peace

Continued from page 1

ley who said it was offensive to be told that in three months' time the IRA would be invited to sit down as constitutional politicans if they ceased their violence. It was "sell-out act of treachery."

Mr Major retorted: "The purpose of this agreement and this document is to make sure that 25 years from now your successor does not sit there saying that to the Prime Minister of the day. I wish to take action to make sure there's no more bloodshed of this sort, no more coffins carried away week after week because politicians will not have the courage to sit down, address the problems and find a way through."

Mr Hume warned against kneejerk reactions. It was a challenge to all parties "to come to the table in a totally peaceful atmosphere".

In Dublin, Mr Reynolds told the Dail that the declaration left no excuse for violence. Both he and Mr Major hoped it would be the first step on the road to a just and lasting peace. "There was never a better opportunity for everyone to bring the troubles and appalling violence of the last 25 years to an end.

"If anyone's nerve fails or falters at this point, dark clouds are looming on the horizon. The dogs of war are waiting to be unleashed and the Shankill and Greysteel atrocities could be a foretaste of the future."

In a television broadcast last night, Mr Major made a further appeal for an end to the violence. "We cannot go on spilling blood in the name of the past," he said. "People with different ambitions who are born in the same land, often the same street, must live together."

The will for peace was there. "But only the men on violence can decide whether they will talk instead of bomb, discuss instead of murder."



COMRADE CASANOVA

"Once installed in the Forbidden City, Mao was able to get as many women as he wanted. He liked them very young, with a low level of education, like dancers and waitresses."

Jeremy Bennett reveals Mao's insatiable sexual appetite

THE NUMBER ONE

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Plus: Jonathan Meades's Restaurants of the Year

This Saturday in The Times Magazine



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Broadmoor killer escapes on Christmas shopping trip

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE across southern England were hunting a convicted killer last night after he escaped from his guards while on Christmas shopping trip from Broadmoor top-security hospital.

Anthony Pilditch, 47, who was sent to Broadmoor after murdering a waitress, gave his male and female escort the slip while having lunch at a hotel in Reading, Berkshire. He managed to escape after making an excuse to go the lavatory or bar at the George hotel in the town centre.

Pilditch was on his sixth outing from the top-security hospital at Crowthorne as part of a two-year rehabilitation



Pilditch: gave escorts the slip in a hotel

programme, preparing him for eventual release.

Harry Fields, director of nursing services at Broadmoor, said: "We are very concerned to get Tony back. Although he is not an immediate danger to the public, we are concerned he could pose a threat."

The two nurses gave chase, but lost him and raised the alarm to alert police who flooded the area with officers. A spokesman for Thames Valley Police said: "He should not be approached. Anyone who sees him should call us at once. He is a convicted murderer and is believed to be dangerous." He said that Pilditch was a market trader and was known to fellow patients and staff as a bit of a "Jack the lad."

Pilditch, from Kilburn, northwest London, weighs 20 stones and is 5ft 8ins tall. He was wearing a grey jacket, grey trousers, white shirt and black shoes when he fled. He has blue eyes and short brown hair, turning grey.

He has tattoo of a jaguar on his left upper arm, a clasped hand tattoo on his left forearm and one with two roses on the back of his left hand. He wears three gold rings on his fingers, two gold bracelets on his right wrist and a gold Rolex watch on his left wrist.

The missing man is likely to be wheezing if he has to walk any distance as he is recovering from a severe bout of flu.

He was sent to Parkhurst Prison on the Isle of Wight but in 1985 was transferred to Broadmoor when his mental condition deteriorated. He has a history of heavy alcohol abuse.

Pilditch was jailed for life at St Albans Crown Court in 1984 after admitting killing a 17-year-old Scottish waitress, Agnes Duff. He had been detained in north London for alleged rape and was convicted of actual bodily harm. While being questioned about the assault he admitted killing Miss Duff, whose badly decomposed body was found under a bed in a flat in Luton, Bedfordshire, in 1978. For almost six years until his confession, detectives believed that the woman had died from natural causes.

Pilditch was handed over to police in Luton who had once previously questioned him about her death.

When enquiries into her death were re-opened, Pilditch was charged with the murder and was questioned about the killings of four other women. They included the death of a girl on Epsom Downs, Surrey, and the murders of two prostitutes in London, one at Paddington and another in Marylebone.



Victoria Elkins, 79, being attended by Staff Nurse Nick Vincent in Bart's accident and emergency unit yesterday

Casualty axe 'a disaster for London'

BY KATE ALDERSON

THE closure of the casualty department at St Bartholomew's hospital, which has been at the forefront of treating people injured in recent terrorist attacks and survived the Great Plague, the Fire of London and two world wars, was described yesterday as a disaster by one of its consultants.

Duncan Dymond, a consultant cardiologist at one the world's oldest and most famous teaching hospitals established in 1125, said the closure was a triumph for political doctrine over common sense.

He said: "I would be terrified if I was a commuter or resident who relied on the casualty department. Speed is of the essence for a patient requiring emergency treatment. We cannot afford for a heart-attack patient to be sitting in traffic trying to get to a hospital miles away."

The accident and emergency department is widely regarded as vital for dealing with those injured in a big incident in central London. It will be closed in October and be replaced by a minor injuries clinic open 12 hours a day, seven days a week.

Staff in the casualty department greeted the news with despondency. Sister Nicky Nurse said: "I am sad for this excellent hospital which serves the local community. We will continue to fight closure."

The hospital's management and the Save Bart's Patients' Campaign, who have lobbied for more than a year to save it, said they would back the City Initiative, a £10 million partnership between the Corporation of London and Bart's, to keep the department open.

Professor Mike Besser, chief executive of the hospital, said: "We are pleased that there will be continuing mainstream activity at this hospital and that the shadow of complete closure has passed, although we regret the shutting of our emergency service.

"The City Initiative looks to be a real possibility, but if it does not come off then proper emergency care will not be available in the city." He said that it could take more than ten months to finalise the deal, which entails private investment funding.

Don Magnus, chair of the Save Bart's Patients' Campaign, said: "We have been successful in staving off closure, but we are not happy that the casualty department will now treat only minor injuries. Our next fight is to get a privately funded casualty ward."

London Ambulance statistics show that after the Cannon Street rail crash in 1991 Bart's dealt with 101 patients, compared with Guy's which took 32 and the Royal London which took 23. It also dealt with more patients after the Bishopsgate bombing.

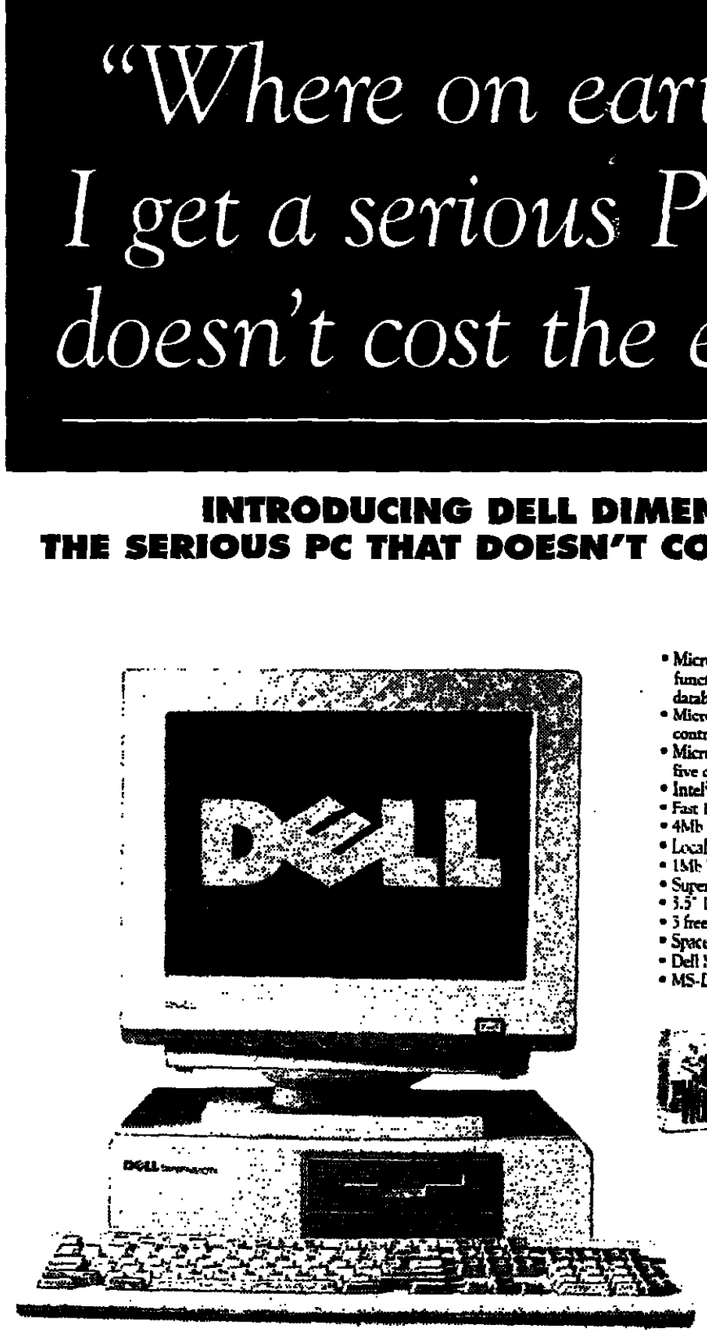
Death knell, page 1



Patients enjoying the sunshine on the hospital roof in the summer of 1947

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LA records smashed by Sunset Boulevard

BY A STAFF REPORTER

ONLY a week after opening in Los Angeles, *Sunset Boulevard*, the musical by Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, is set to break all box-office records in the city.

The show is to open on Broadway in New York as soon as a suitable theatre can be found and productions are being planned in cities around the world.

The production in Los Angeles, which stars Glenn Close, is certain to run for at least a year.

Advance bookings worth $7 million (£4.7 million) were taken in the two months before the show opened. After the reviews of the first night on December 8, tickets worth $512,000 were sold the next day and a further $1.5 million of tickets were sold by the theatre during the first week. Each of these figures represents a new record for Los Angeles.

The composer decided to open the show there, even though there is not a strong theatre tradition in the city, as a homage to the film that inspired it.

"I am absolutely thrilled by the critical and box office reaction," Sir Andrew said last night.

"To have taken so much money in so short a time in a town not normally thought of as a theatre city is extraordinarily gratifying," he added.

The success of the show means that, apart from New York, productions are being planned in Toronto, Sydney and Frankfurt.

The London production, which opened on July 11, is now booking through until next June.

Nanny tells of happy family's tragic end

A NANNY who believed she worked for "a happy family" arrived at work to find her woman employer and her two children dead, an inquest was told today.

The statement of Karen Miles, 21, was read out at the inquest at Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, into the deaths of Julia Garvey, 38, her children Benjamin, 4, Hannah, 2, and her husband Dennis, 43.

Mrs Garvey and the two children were found dead at the family's £200,000 home in Teddington, Gloucestershire, on May 4 this year. Mr Garvey, a £48,000-a-year Eagle Star Insurance computer expert, was found drowned in the North Sea at Lowestoft, Suffolk, three days later.

The inquest was told how Mr Garvey had never recovered from the death of his first wife Elaine in a road accident in January 1978.

In a statement, Elaine's mother, Hazel Watson, told the inquest how Mr Garvey and her daughter had often visited her for walks at her beach house home in Gorleston, Norfolk. "Dennis thought the world of Elaine and was shattered by her death."

In her statement Miss Miles said she ran upstairs to Benjamin's room and found him dead with his face purple.

She shouted for Mrs Garvey and ran into her bedroom. There was blood on the carpet, books and a wooden mallet on Mr Garvey's side of the bed.

The inquest was told that the two children had been suffocated and Mrs Garvey beaten to death with the mallet.

Miss Miles's statement ended: "As far as I knew I worked for a happy family. Mr and Mrs Garvey seemed content — they celebrated birthdays and anniversaries. The children were happy and spoilt. Everything seemed all right to me. I am just in a state of shock."

The coroner noted that Mr Garvey's first wife was buried only a short distance from where his body was found. He recorded a verdict of unlawful killing on Mrs Garvey and the children, and an open verdict on Mr Garvey.

CORRECTION

An article yesterday (*Babes in the Ulster Wood*) incorrectly stated that the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985 was signed by Charles Haughey; in fact it was signed by the then Taoiseach, Garret Fitzgerald.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Howard vows crime victims will not lose

Government proposals to overhaul the way victims of crime are compensated for their suffering were unveiled by the Home Secretary yesterday with a pledge that victims would not lose out. But Michael Howard's White Paper was immediately attacked as a cost-cutting exercise.

The proposals create a tariff system of awards for particular injuries, instead of the present discretionary system. Mr Howard insisted that this would mean quicker payments to victims, although he accepted that some would receive less money as a result.

Richard Coyles, chairman of the Police Federation, said: "The Government has trumpeted its sympathy for the victims of crime while planning to mug those very same victims in the most cynical and callous fashion."

Banks to sell holidays

Shoppers could be buying package holidays at supermarket or in banks and building societies within a year. A change in the Association of British Travel Agents' rules last week allowed tour operators to market holidays without using high-street travel agents. Thomson, Britain's biggest tour operator, has already set up a review of its distribution network. Rosemary Astles, its marketing director, said: "Customers want simple, efficient and fast service and although travel agents are experts they are not necessarily the only ones who could do that." Travel, pages 20 and 21

Soldiers' bodies found

The bodies of two paratroopers, missing since they set off for a weekend walk in the Scottish Highlands, were found under 15ft of snow yesterday. They had been caught in bad weather in Glen Coe. Lance Corporal Paul Callaghan, 26, from Glasgow, and Private David Reid, 24, from Stranraer, served with 5 Airborne Brigade at Aldershot and were both experienced mountain climbers, skilled in winter warfare.

☐ The frozen body of Albert Lee, 59, from Crook, Co Durham, was found yards from his car in drifts on the A66 trans-Pennine road on Tuesday.

Bill for broken dreams

A builder watched helplessly as his £300,000 dream home was knocked down by contractors working for Solihull council in the West Midlands. Now, six months later, Tom Gallacher, 54, from Knowle, West Midlands, has been sent a £40,000 bill for the demolition and legal costs. Work on converting a derelict 400-year-old barn ground to a halt in 1990 when the council claimed that Mr Gallacher had knocked down too much of the original building. It finally sent in the demolition team after Mr Gallacher lost a three-year planning battle.

Drug suspects acquitted

Six men were cleared yesterday of involvement in one of Britain's biggest drug smuggling operations. At the end of a £2 million trial, the jury at Southwark Crown Court accepted that one of the accused, Derek Hillier, of Sidcup, Kent, had been forced by drugs barons to attempt to bring cocaine worth £125 million into the country by ship. The jury also accepted that five other men, including the skipper, had known nothing of the smuggling operation. Customs officers had unloaded almost 800 kilograms of the drug from the ship at Charlton on the Thames.

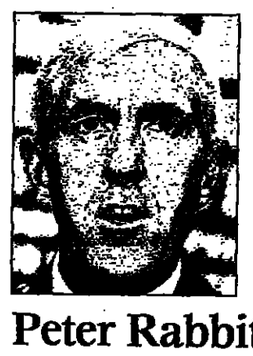
The replete angler

Instead of shivering in wind and rain and eating soggy sandwiches, anglers may soon be able to fish in guaranteed warmth — in an indoor lake. Until they take the hook, even the fish will live in comfort in a heated pool. The tackle manufacturer Browning UK is negotiating to buy a 25-acre site near Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, part of which it plans to enclose. The England international angler Dave Harrell supported the idea, but John Wilson, host of Channel 4's *Go Fishing*, said: "If this is what the fishery of the future is going to be I'm glad I won't be around."

Trawler wreckage found

The search for a Scottish fishing boat and her two-man crew was called off last night after wreckage was found on the seabed close to her home port. David Edgar, of Dunure, Strathclyde, and Robert Andrews, of Ayr, were fishing near the Isle of Arran on board the 45ft Copia when she disappeared in strong gales on Tuesday night. Search vessels later found wreckage on the seabed in 40m of water less than five miles from Troon. The crew had made a routine call requesting that hydraulic oil be left for them at the port just before they disappeared.

Condon falls from horse



Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, was taken to hospital yesterday after being thrown from a horse. Mr Condon, left, who rides regularly, was in Hyde Park when the police horse reared up and tossed the Commissioner to the ground. He was treated for minor back and shoulder injuries and doctors were considering keeping him in hospital overnight for observation.

Peter Rabbit record

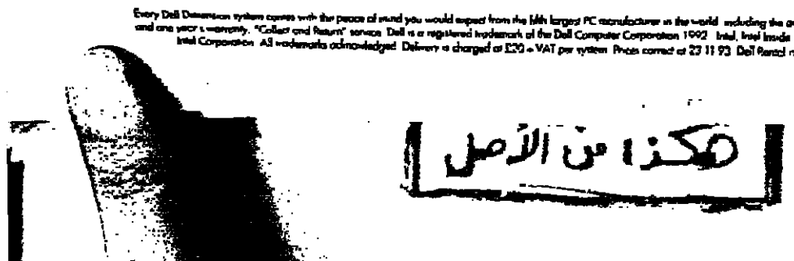
An inscribed first edition of Beatrix Potter's *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, originally costing 1s 2d, made £28,600 after frenzied bidding at Christie's South Kensington. It was one of only 200 privately printed in February 1902. The book, being sold by its owner in Australia, was estimated at £2,000-£3,000 but bidding soared fuelled by three competitive buyers from America. It was bought by an overseas buyer, who also spent more than £6,000 on other Potter first editions. The price more than doubles the previous best for a second impression of the classic.

Cleaner wins £2m

A school cleaner has won more than £2 million on the pools. Judith Smith, 50, of Portland, Dorset, has resigned from her £38-a-week job to "give someone else the chance to earn a few bob". One of her sons has recently been made redundant and the jobs of two others are threatened. She had forgotten to fill in her coupon in the previous two weeks. A Littlewoods spokesman said she was the twelfth person to win more than £2 million and her win was the fourth biggest ever recorded.

Illustrator awards

Two artists have won 1993 W H Smith Illustration Awards for work appearing in *The Times*. Sarah Ball won second prize for magazine illustration with her pictures accompanying the Christmas books feature in November 1992. Paul Slater, whose illustrations accompany Jonathan Meades's restaurant reviews, won a distinguished mention for a picture of a fish in a tail-coat. Tony Meeuwissen was overall winner for his illustrations to *The Key to the Kingdom*.



Elderly man lay dead in flat for three years

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

A MAN who lay dead in his council flat for more than three years — his disappearance unquestioned by neighbours or the authorities — was being sued for non-payment of rent by his local council.

Brent council in northwest London admitted yesterday that it had been seeking the eviction of John Sheppard, whose remains were discovered by workmen who went to repair a water leak.

Police helped a plumber to break into the one-bedroom, seventh-floor flat at Harlesden. The skeleton, clad only in a pair of socks, was found on the kitchen floor.

A post-mortem examination failed to discover the exact time of death or the cause. An imitation Christmas tree was in the living room and the last date crossed off on his calendar was December 22, 1989, but police have found receipts dated up to June 1990. The death is not being treated as suspicious.

Det Insp David Brown said: "It is extremely sad to think that an elderly man lay dead in his home for over three years without being discovered. It is an indictment of modern society."

Yesterday, no one was prepared to accept blame for the lonely death of Mr Sheppard. In an official statement endorsed by the housing director, Brian Queen, the council described him as "a reclusive man who was rarely seen around the estate".

He was born 72 years ago and had lived for at least ten years in Fitzsimmons Court. Neighbours described him as a tall, balding man with an impeccably polite manner, who was often seen pushing a shopping trolley. He was believed to be a widower and his only visitors were an elderly woman next door who moved away and a younger man presumed to be his son.

Mr Sheppard's rent was paid by direct debit from a private pension and arrears began to accrue only in 1992. They escalated in August 1992 when his income support ended, and currently stand at £4,500. He paid no poll tax. The council began legal action for rent arrears in October 1992, followed by eviction proceedings.

Tony Johnston, one of the neighbours, criticised the council yesterday for failing to notice the death. Mr Johnston, 30, said: "The man next door was quiet and kept himself to himself.

"When meals on wheels stopped coming and his son stopped coming we thought it was an empty flat and that he had disappeared. There was a smell up there at one stage but everybody thought it was the drains."

The council said its housing department had launched a "wide-ranging investigation" with the police, gas and electricity companies. It denied that it had supplied meals on wheels to Mr Sheppard and said no one had referred him to social services.

The dead man, a diabetic with heart disease, was last seen by his doctor in January 1990. The practice manager at Craven Park health centre said the GPs had thousands of patients to think about. She asked: "Who collected his rent? Why wasn't it checked? What about social services, the milkman, neighbours?"

The Rev Roy Smith of the Church of St Michael and All Angels, overlooked by Mr Sheppard's flat, said: "This would not have happened 30 years ago. Minding your own business can only go so far."

Laughter in court as actor claims reports of his hell-raising past are exaggerated



Oliver Reed leaving the Printer's Pie pub earlier this week en route to the High Court

Witness tells how Reed party offended minister

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

A GUEST of the actor Oliver Reed urinated into a champagne glass in front of restaurant diners including the Seychelles Minister of Culture, the High Court was told yesterday.

The minister, who owned the restaurant, observed John "Ginger" Hughes urinating at the next table as a party trick after a lunchtime drinking session that began with a tray of "atomic concoctions".

The event was described to the court by Paul La Mare, sound director on the film *Castaway*, which Reed was filming in the Seychelles in 1986. Mr La Mare said he felt that the only way to apologise was to buy the minister a bottle of champagne and order a taxi for the party.

He told the court: "Ginger passed water into a champagne glass. I heard a shriek from the next table. I had been trying to keep out of the way of the tom-foolery. It was getting a bit embarrassing."

The party followed an incident over which Reg Prince, Mr Reed's film stand-in, is suing the actor, 55, for damages. He claims Mr Reed tipped him over a 12ft ballastrade at La Reserve restaurant on the island resort of Praslin on to the beach, leaving him with two fractures of his spine and unable to work.

Mr Reed claims that he diverted Mr Prince, 57, over the balcony in self-defence after his stand-in, who had been carrying a knife, charged at him during an argument.

Mr Reed also claims that only later did Mr Prince injure his back, when he fell over on a concrete path while fetching champagne.

Mr La Mare, who did not observe the fall, claimed the stand-in walked uninjured from the beach and carried on drinking with Mr Reed.

During earlier cross-examination, Mr Reed claimed he never got drunk or violent, nor misbehaved in public. He denied an allegation that on the day of the incident he displayed his penis to diners at the restaurant.

The actor described himself as a social drinker who was fond of practical jokes, but claimed that headlines describing him as a hell-raiser were fabrication. He told Mr Justice Owen "I sometimes am perhaps over-threatrical."

A newspaper story that he drank 104 pints of beer in the two days before his marriage to his wife, Josephine, 28, was exaggerated.

He said: "I have a relationship with the press which is such that I allow them to exaggerate and we do a lot of things with tongue in cheek."

He agreed he once pushed Mr Prince into a swimming pool after drawing him to the edge saying: "Goodness me, Reg, I didn't know there were goldfish in the pool."

Mr Reed, who drew laughter in court, denied allegations that he head-butted people and told the court that he remained the same whether drinking or not. It was untrue that he broke his stand-in's nose during a party in Mexico.

The case continues.

Abandoned girl gives few clues about home

BY JOHN YOUNG

A GIRL who was apparently abandoned by her mother in a McDonald's restaurant in north London a week ago cannot remember her address or where she goes to school. Police appealed yesterday for help in tracing the relatives of Sarah Williams, 12.

The girl, who was described as extremely immature, told police that her mother had said she was going to buy cigarettes last Thursday, but she never returned. Sarah waited for two hours before taking a bus and wandering into a police station in Kingsbury, north London.

"She said she had been living in Kilburn for only three days and had recently moved from Dundee," Det Insp Phillip King said. "She could remember the names of her parents but no other relatives, nor her addresses in Kilburn or Scotland, or her schools."

Sarah said her parents, Mary and James Williams, had divorced recently. Checks on lists of missing persons and enquiries with local hospitals have so far failed to trace her mother.

"At this stage we believe that her mother is still alive," Mr King said. Sarah is now in the care of the social services department in the London borough of Brent.

Crash kills ambulance medics and baby

BY ANDREW COLLIER

A PARAMEDIC, a midwife and an unborn baby were killed yesterday when an ambulance in which they were travelling crashed into a coal lorry in icy conditions on its way to hospital.

The baby's mother, who was in labour at the time, was seriously ill last night. It is understood that the baby was born dead in hospital.

The woman's husband is believed to have been travelling behind the ambulance in a car when the accident happened. The ambulance driver was taken to hospital, but later released.

An RAF helicopter on its way to Glencoe to search for two missing soldiers diverted to the scene to take the dead and injured to hospital.

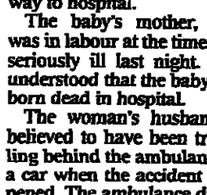
The ambulance was taking Lousie Hill, 30, from the Isle of Skye through the Highlands when it collided with the coal lorry on the A887 at Invermoriston at the southern end of Loch Ness and landed on its roof.

A paramedic technician, David Brown, 38, and a midwife, Susan Beaton, 40, a mother of four, both from Dunvegan on Skye, were killed instantly. The lorry driver told police both vehicles ended in the ditch and Mrs Hill was thrown clear.

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Court gives go-ahead for deportation of cult women

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

TWO British women accused of plotting to murder a lawyer while they were members of a religious cult lost their fight yesterday to prevent extradition to the United States.

The women looked shocked when the High Court ruled that Kenneth Clarke, then the Home Secretary, had acted lawfully in reaching his decision that they should be returned to Oregon to face trial.

They were given leave to appeal to the House of Lords which means that they will have at least a further two months in Britain. Both women are on £10,000 bail.

Sally-Ann Croft, a chartered accountant, of Mayfair, central London, and Susan Hagan, an aromatherapist, of Abbots Langley, Hertfordshire, said that they were devastated by the decision.

Ms Croft said that they were innocent and would never have a fair trial in Oregon where hostility remained high towards the cult founded by the late Indian guru Bhaghwan Shree Rajneesh. The Bhaghwan preached free love and disdain for material possessions, but had a penchant for diamonds and Rolls-Royces.

Ms Croft added: "I am never going to have a chance to have a fair trial and prove my innocence because of the scandalous prejudice against the Rajneesh community in Oregon. That is why we are so terrified of the process we are in."

Lawyers for Ms Croft, 44, and Mrs Hagan, 46, had asked the court to rule that Mr Clarke had failed properly to review their case and that his decision in April to send them to the US was "flawed, unlawful and unreasonable".

They argued that Mr Clarke had failed to consider the strength and reliability of the "tainted and uncorroborated" evidence from the US prosecution team and that they would not receive a fair trial.

Lord Justice Russell, sitting with Mr Justice Blofeld, said that the Home Secretary had acted lawfully. "I can see no flaw either in his discharge of his obligation or in his discharge of his duty."

He said the Home Secretary had been fully entitled to decide that there was a prima facie case against the women. The reliability of the evidence against them was not a matter for him, but should be tested in the US courts.

The women face trial on charges of plotting to murder Charles Turner, a state attorney, in 1985. The plot was never carried out.

It was not until five years later that they were implicated by four other members of the cult during plea bargaining.



Sally-Ann Croft, left, and Susan Hagan at court yesterday

DONALD COOPER



The long-time television partners Jennifer Saunders and Dawn French appearing together on a West End stage for the first time. They play lesbian lovers in the comedy *Me and Mamie O' Rourke*, which opened at the Strand Theatre in London last night. The pair have worked together on television for ten years but never in the theatre. They play two friends who abandon their men for each other and have to share a lingering kiss. French, 36, said of the roles: "They attempt lesbianism in a big, carnal way." Saunders added: "In acting I've had to kiss a lot of men I don't know or fancy. You just get used to it."

Cash battle a waste of time, say orchestras

BY ALISON ROBERTS
ARTS REPORTER

■ **The Arts Council announced its grants to two London orchestras yeaterday, ending months of anxiety in the music world**

THE battle between three London Orchestras for Arts Council funding was branded a waste of time and effort by the music world yesterday, as a compromise which had little to do with the council's original aims was produced.

After a six-hour meeting of the full council, only a tweak of current funding was announced. Initially, the plan was to withdraw grants from two orchestras.

The three orchestras — the Philharmonia, the London Philharmonic and the Royal Philharmonic — welcomed the conclusion, which offers job security and continuing state subsidy for all, but lamented the stress and anxiety that had been caused to musicians. The Philharmonia, which expected a £400,000 boost in grant following the council's music panel recommendations, will instead receive the same level of subsidy, getting £700,000 in 1994-95.

It will be disappointed with the final result because it had won a marginal endorsement from the Hoffmann committee, set up by the Arts Council to recommend one winner of enhanced state funding.

Judy Grahame, spokeswoman for the Philharmonia, said that the whole exercise had involved "a tremendous amount of energy for very little result".

The London Philharmonic takes a £400,000 cut, receiving £700,000. But the South Bank Centre, at which the LPO is resident, will be given a bonus £400,000. The Arts Council stressed that this extra money, on top of the South Bank's existing £13.4 million grant, was "earmarked to meet the cost of the residency and is to be regarded in that light now and for the future".

This holds the door open for other orchestras to take over the residency in the future, but secures the LPO's current programme.

It also pays lip service to the Hoffmann report. This document, published yesterday, contained the results of the independent committee's review, chaired by Appeal Court judge Sir Leonard Hoffmann.

The five-strong committee did not name two orchestras from which grants should be withdrawn, but did single out the Philharmonia for special praise. Had the Arts Council decided to continue direct funding to the LPO at a higher level than the Philharmonia, Hoffmann's conclusions would have been ignored completely.

The Royal Philharmonic's grant remains undecided. The Arts Council interpreted Hoffmann as saying: "the RPO was not in contention in comparison with the two other orchestras ..." For this reason, the RPO will receive funding for its regional touring work rather than its performances in London, but will get no less than £300,000. It currently receives about £400,000 a year.

Libby Macnamara, director of the Association of British Orchestras, called the five-and-a-half-month competition process "deplorable", but also welcomed the lifting of the axe.

However, all is not quite over: the orchestras now await a broader review undertaken jointly by the Arts Council and the BBC, the largest employer of musicians in the country.

Leading article, page 17

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boys held on torture charges

Two schoolboys accused of torturing three young brothers on a railway line have been sent to a children's home for a month. It is alleged that the pair, aged 10 and 11, carried out the attacks five days after the Bulger murder trial ended.

They were remanded on conditional bail in Gosforth Youth Court, Newcastle upon Tyne, yesterday to an establishment approved by the local authority. The case was adjourned until January 15.

They are accused of threatening to kill a boy aged 6 by trying to force him to touch a 20,000-volt rail line and of indecently assaulting the boy and his brothers, 7 and 10.

Drink ruling

Magistrates were right not to ban Ross Upchurch, 19, from driving after police caught him taking a friend to hospital in Bournemouth when over the legal alcohol limit, the High Court in London ruled.

Baby kidnap

Dennis Dunn, 19, and John Robinson, 30, were jailed for three years by Newcastle Crown Court for kidnap after they stole a car without realising a baby was in the back.

Botham settles

The retired cricketer Ian Botham has agreed to an undisclosed out-of-court settlement after he was sued by Scottish and Newcastle Breweries over the sudden end of his pub talk-in programme.

BR apology

British Rail has apologised for a misleading advertisement after a commuter complained about one boasting of trains arriving on time in Kent. It was found that BR had not included cancelled trains.

Carol theft

Thieves stole £400 from Chapel Hill primary school in Braintree, Essex, during a carol service. The money was to have been a raffle prize.

Train treasure

A toy Piccadilly Line Tube train made of brass in 1934 is expected to fetch up to £5,000 at a Christie's auction in London on Monday.

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Prince says he needed coaching to pass exams

BY BEN PRESTON
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE Prince of Wales said yesterday that, without extra tuition, he would have failed all his examinations at school.

Announcing a nationwide expansion of homework centres, the Prince stressed the importance of giving children individual attention and the chance to learn outside normal school hours.

The Prince, who gained five O levels and two A levels, was speaking after Anne-Marie Dorrian, 17, from Glasgow, told a conference that pupils were often too embarrassed to admit that they did not understand something in a lesson. He said that he sympathised with people who felt they did not receive enough personal attention in schools.

He said: "You are terrified of putting your hand up and saying 'I don't understand.' I remember it only too well myself. In my case, I was lucky enough to get some extra help, otherwise I would never have passed any exams."

Under the initiative, thousands of schoolchildren will be given the chance to study away from often cramped or disruptive homes by opening churches, community centres or classrooms after school.

Staff and other pupils will be on hand to help children to tackle questions that might otherwise lead them to give up.

Research published yesterday highlighted the success of pilot projects which led to big improvements in pupils' examination results and motivation, and urged greater national investment. Professor John MacBeath, the report's author and director of the quality in education unit at Strathclyde University, studied ten projects in London, Belfast, Liverpool, Bradford and Strathclyde which received funding from the Prince's Trust.

He appealed for money to help to expand the scheme suggested to him three years ago by Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary.

Wave machine harnesses power from the oceans

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A DEVICE that could make possible the commercial generation of electricity from waves was unveiled yesterday. The machine, called Ocean Swell Powered Renewable Energy (or Osprey), uses the waves hitting its side to push air, trapped in chambers, up and down through four turbines.

The first Osprey is to be built next year and sited off Dounreay, Highland, to exploit waves up to 25ft rolling down the Pentland Firth.

Unlike rival devices, it has the backing of engineering and power companies including GEC Alsthom, British Steel, Scottish Hydro and the former Atomic Energy Authority. It is also backed by the Trade and Industry Department and various Scottish enterprise organisations.

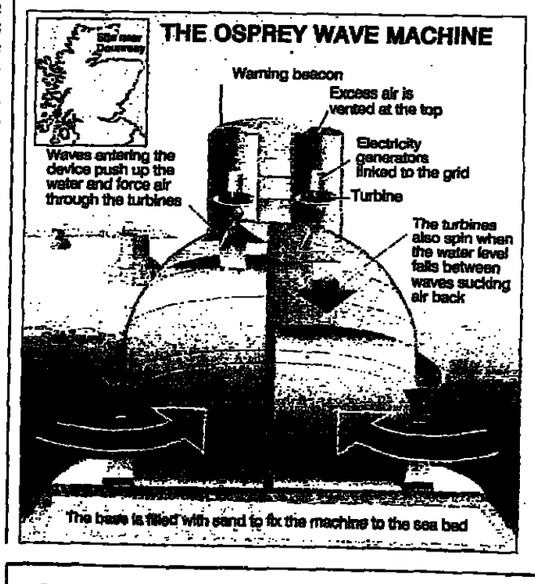
Dr Gian Carlo Caratti, from the European Commission's renewable energies unit, announced at the launch in London yesterday that it was backing the scheme with £435,000 from the EC's Joule programme. Allan Thomson, managing director of Applied Research and Technology, the Inverness-based firm behind the device, said: "We believe this is the dawn of commercial wave power."

The energy technology support unit at Harwell, Oxfordshire, part of the Trade and Industry Department, estimates that current wave-power technology could produce five gigawatts, or a tenth of the nation's electricity needs.

Mr Thomson said that the costs of electricity produced from Osprey would rival other renewable technologies such as wind power. He said that by the end of the decade he expected the cost of the electricity to rival oil, coal or gas as the machines were installed around the coast.

"This is the first wave device capable of mass manufacture," Mr Thomson said. The first Osprey, for which construction tenders will be invited next month, will weigh about 7,700 tonnes and should be able to withstand heavy weather.

It will be a two-megawatt machine pumping electricity into the grid at Dounreay, site of the fast breeder reactor due to close next year.



DNA map gives route to a cure

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

FRENCH scientists have published a near-complete map of the human genome, making it easier to identify the genes that cause many hereditary diseases.

The map shows 33,000 fragments of the genetic material DNA, which the scientists have been able to locate on the 23 pairs of chromosomes that make up the human genetic blueprint. The fragments will act as signposts for researchers trying to identify the precise location of genes involved in disease.

In this week's issue of *Nature*, Dr Daniel Cohen and colleagues from the Genethon Laboratory near Paris report on a technique in which the genome is chopped into pieces, and the fragments stored inside yeast chromosomes. This makes it possible to copy each fragment many times.

The DNA was chopped up in many different ways, using different enzymes, to produce a range of fragments. The actual DNA sequences in the yeast chromosomes overlapped with one another, making it possible to see how they fitted together by studying the overlaps. In this way, the team has reassembled the fragments in their original order on the chromosome.

At the French Academy of Sciences yesterday, the map was compared to Louis Pasteur's discovery of bacteria. "This is a critical first step in the search to locate and characterise disease-causing genes involved in serious hereditary illness," Francois Gros, secretary of the academy, said.

هكذا من الأصل

Move to strengthen 'weak link' in the fight against crime

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

■ The Crown Prosecution Service is to review its rules after MPs claimed that court cases were dropped to save money

CROWN prosecutors are to get a new code of practice after Tory MPs castigated them for being the "weak link" in the fight against crime.

Sir Nicholas Lyell QC, the Attorney General, said yesterday that there would be a review of the code of practice which the Crown Prosecution Service uses when deciding whether to take a case to court. The review is likely to highlight the need for prosecutors to take into account "the public interest" when deciding whether or not to drop cases.

Sir Nicholas announced the review after a Commons debate in which Tory MPs harshly criticised the CPS, headed by the Director of Public Prosecutions, Barbara Mills. The attacks are the latest in a series, particularly over the number of cases dropped before getting to court.

Nigel Evans (C, Ribble Valley) urged a full review of the workings of the CPS, saying too many guilty people were being let off. "We cannot afford a system that only accepts cast-iron cases."

Labour also went on the offensive, claiming that victims of crime were being betrayed because the CPS was dropping more court cases to save costs. Despite soaring crime figures, there was a 15 per cent fall in cases reaching the crown courts in the past year, Alun Michael, the home affairs spokesman, said.

Sir Nicholas told the House that the aim of the review would be "to simplify the language of the code, to put it into plain English, to make it a document more easily understood both by police officers and by members of the public who are not lawyers". "At the heart of the code for crown prosecutors is the requirement that before you prosecute there should be, firstly, a sufficiency of evidence to give a realistic prospect of conviction and, secondly, that prosecution should be in the public interest."

The DPP was confident that the code's basic principles were still sound, he added. But the requirement for sufficient evidence could be clarified, and the public interest factor brought out more clearly.

On the subject of dropped cases, Sir Nicholas urged MPs: "If you have a case which worries you, come to me, come to the DPP, with chapter and verse and it will be looked into." He accepted that the number of discontinued cases had risen, but said that since the CPS was set up to review cases, it was "neither surprising nor wrong that a significant proportion of cases will be weeded out".

Figures released last week showed the total of cases dropped, for whatever reason, rose from 194,693 to 281,121 in 1991-92. This year, the total up to September was 218,466.

A survey two weeks ago by the First Division Association found "very worrying" evidence that prosecution policy is being determined by performance targets on acquittals and convictions, and by lawyers' worries over appraisal and performance-related pay.

In response the DPP said the CPS was now carrying out a survey of why cases were dropped. "Two-thirds of those which are currently discontinued are discontinued because there is not a realistic prospect of conviction. We always consult with the police before we have to do it." The other third were not proceeded with because of "public interest factors", she said. "For example, a defendant who has already just been sentenced to a very lengthy term of imprisonment, and there is no point in going ahead with a minor offence."

The CPS said the revised code would be out next spring.



Peter Atkinson, with Government support, tries to stop the traffic in the South East for the Tour de France

Commons lottery winners seek to make their mark

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

HEALTH and the environment will underpin MPs' attempts to put their own legislation on to the statute book. Five of the seven private members' bills with the greatest chance of becoming law will concentrate heavily on improving health care and addressing environmental concerns.

The most contentious of the issues, which will be tabled in the Commons today, will be Kevin Barron's attempt to ban tobacco advertising and end sponsorship of events by cigarette manufacturers. The bill has wide cross-party support.

One bill, in the name of Peter Atkinson, Tory MP for Hexham, will allow up to 150 miles of roads in the South East to be closed on July 6 and 7 next year, when the Tour de France comes to Britain for the first time to celebrate the opening of the Channel tunnel.

A bill outlawing discrimination against disabled people and ensuring better access will be introduced by Roger Berry, Labour MP for Kingswood. The bill contains proposals previously included in a bill introduced by a fellow Labour MP, Alf Morris, which has been blocked by the Government on the grounds of cost and workability.

Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, will press for new energy conservation laws which would compel local authorities to assess the amount of energy wasted in housing and draw up plans to combat such waste. Nicholas Budgen, one of the most outspoken Conservative critics of Government economic policy, will unveil details today of his bill which will call for a more accountable Bank of England.

Mr Atkinson's bill and two other Government-backed bills are likely to have the greatest chance of success when the private members' bills come before the Commons for Friday debates between January and March.

David Lidington will introduce a bill forcing registration of chiropractors, who use alternative methods of treatment to relieve pain. Sir Michael Jopling will introduce the Antarctic Environment Protection Bill, ratifying the international protocol, signed in 1991, to limit the damage done in the Antarctic by research organisations.

The seven bills, selected after the MPs' names came first out of a Commons ballot, will be given a full day of debate. Thirteen remaining bills are unlikely to be given sufficient time to progress through the Commons.

Gummer overrides Thorp protests

BY JONATHAN PRYNN AND NICK NUTTALL

JOHN Gummer has finally given the go-ahead for the £2.8 billion Thorp nuclear fuel reprocessing plant at Sellafield, 15 years after the decision to build it was taken.

The environment secretary announced his decision in the Commons yesterday afternoon, setting his face against bitter opposition from environmental campaigners and the concerns of a number of north European countries.

Mr Gummer, who was interrupted by shouts from two protesters in the public gallery, said the Government had concluded that radioactive discharges from the Cumbria plant "would not lead to unacceptable risks to human health or the environment". However, he also outlined tougher reporting requirements on discharges for British Nuclear Fuels, Thorp's owner.

Mr Gummer rejected calls for a full public enquiry, provoking anger and cries of "scandalous" from the Opposition benches. He said the 42,500 individual responses to the latest round of consultation, of which 63 per cent were opposed to Thorp, had raised no issues "which would cause us to conclude that further consultation or debate is necessary".

Friends of the Earth claimed the decision broke obligations under the European Euratom Treaty to justify the harm caused by the discharges.

'Sleight of hand' by Clark may have misled Customs

BY MICHAEL DYNES, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

ALAN Clark, the former trade and defence minister, yesterday admitted that he may have misled the Customs officials who mounted a prosecution against three Matrix Churchill executives.

A "sleight of hand" contained in his witness statement may have given Customs officials the misleading impression that Matrix Churchill tried to deceive the Government to obtain approval to export machine tools, Mr Clark told Lord Justice Scott's enquiry into the arms-to-Iraq affair.

But Mr Clark said he could not understand why Customs were so determined to press ahead with the Matrix Churchill prosecution, along with a similar prosecution against BSA, another machine tool manufacturer. The whole affair was like something out of "Kafka" he said.

Mr Clark told the enquiry that during a meeting with representatives of the Machine Tool Technologies Association in January 1990, he advised them to emphasise the civilian uses of their equipment when applying for export licences — despite knowing from intelligence reports that they were destined for Iraqi arms factories.

When interviewed by Customs officials in April 1991, however, Mr Clark failed to make it clear that ministers and officials knew about the ultimate destination of the exports. As a result, Customs officials were led to believe that Matrix Churchill was involved in an attempt to deceive the Government.

Mr Clark told the enquiry that he did not realise he was being interviewed about possible illegal exports of machine tools to Iraq. Three months later, however, he received a witness statement drafted by Customs officials, which he was asked to sign, and which was later used to bring charges against Matrix Churchill at the Old Bailey.

Mr Clark told Lord Justice Scott that he considered his statement to be something of "a formality", and the Customs' prosecution to be "so ridiculous" that "nothing would happen".

The enquiry also heard how Mr Clark had signed a similar statement involving a second company, BSA, which was also charged with illegally exporting defence equipment to Iraq. Mr Clark said he could not understand why Customs had brought the case as the company's exports were specifically approved by ministers to protect an intelligence source.

After the trial collapsed in November 1992, Mr Clark said that John Major called him to a meeting to be briefed about the export trade after an article in *The Sunday Times* accused Mr Clark of encouraging the machine tool companies to emphasise the "civilian aspects" of the exports everyone knew would be used to manufacture arms.

Mr Clark said that at no time did he give a "nod and a wink" to the machine tool exporters to make false declarations on their export licence applications.

He insisted that he was "unrepentant." His conduct throughout the arms-to-Iraq saga had been defensible, although he conceded that at times his "sails were almost touching the water". He added, however, that his actions "involved a certain amount of dissimulation".



Clark: "Sails almost touching the water"

In Parliament

Commons (2.30): Questions: Treasury; Prime Minister. Proceedings on the Social Security (Contributions) Bill.
Lords (3): Dog Control and Welfare Bill, second reading.

THE TIMES

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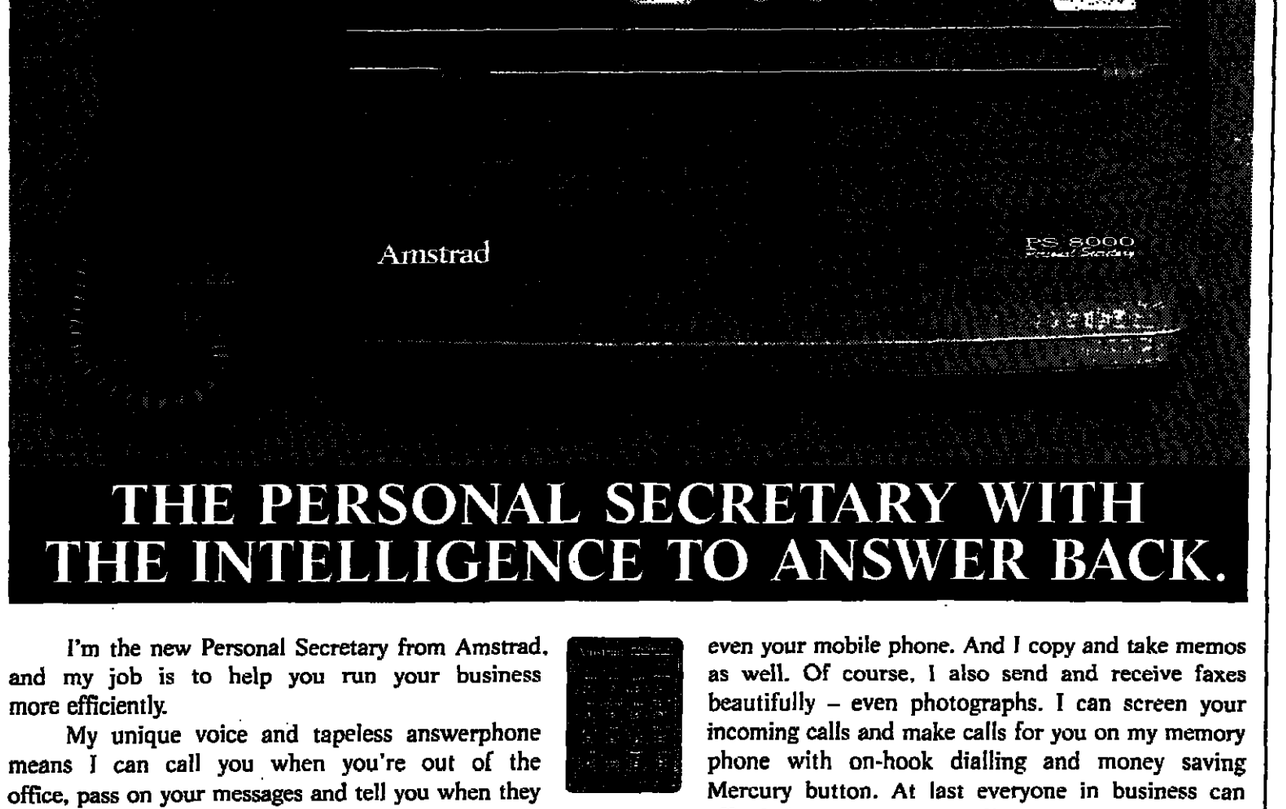
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Teenager feared expulsion from boarding school after breaking rules

Girl smoker hanged herself in showers

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A GIRL who chose to go to boarding school after reading stories about midnight dormitory feasts killed herself because she feared she would be expelled for smoking.

Alice Clover, 13, who loved reading Enid Blyton's tales of adventures at Malory Towers, hanged herself in the showers at Cawston College, Norfolk, an inquest was told.

Her body was found by friends and by a housemother at the school, which has 125 pupils and charges fees of £7,300 a year.

Alice was said to have used a friend's dressing-gown cord, thrown over the shower rail, to kill herself the day before she was due to begin a week's suspension from school.

John Sutton, the headmaster, said in a statement to the inquest in Norwich that Alice had been found smoking and had encouraged a girl aged 9 to steal cigarettes from the cook.

"Smoking was strictly against school rules, and staff became very concerned when pupils were attracted to smoking," he said.

"Addiction is dangerous. After cigarettes, what next? It brings about a certain apathy and lethargy." Encouragement of the nine-year-old was a "despicable act" brought about by a tremendous urge for nicotine.

Mr Sutton said that Alice's reaction to her suspension gave him "absolutely no cause for concern". He added: "It had always been a pleasure to have her in the school. She was always cheerful and polite and popular with her peers. She was a delight to teach, and I always found her to be a well-balanced young lady."

After Alice was informed of the supension, she and some friends were caught smoking again when the school's rugby team, led by a PE teacher, lay in wait for them as they returned to school.

> "Alice was a happy child who loved her school. But she was a very sensitive girl"

Her best friend, Emily Woodnutt, said: "Alice was crying. We were both concerned we would be expelled. She said there was no point in living. She said, 'I don't know why I was born. I wish I was dead.' She got upset very easily and sometimes took things the wrong way."

Mr Sutton said, however, that he had not planned further punishment.

Alice's mother, Veronica, who works for Anglia Television, said her daughter had always looked forward to going back to boarding school after weekends at home. "Alice was a happy child who loved her school." Mrs Clover, of Framingham Pigot, Norfolk, said. "But she was a very sensitive girl who sometimes suffered from an inferiority complex." She had been jealous of other girls who had boy friends, and had cried after a boy she was attracted to rebuffed her.

After the smoking incident, Mrs Clover said, she told Alice "she was a twit and she promised never to smoke again. It never crossed my mind she would do something like this."

James Hipwell, the coroner, said it was one of the most tragic cases he had dealt with. Three notes to her family, friends and other pupils showed clearly that she intended to take her own life.

"All children have their various foibles," he said. "All of us have transgressed at some time or other, but none of it merits any action of this sort."



Alice Clover, 13, during a lesson at Cawston College where she was "a delight to teach"

Daily drink cuts heart attack risk

BY OUR HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

PEOPLE who regularly drink at least 2½ pints of beer or more than half a bottle of wine a day halve their risk of a heart attack, according to a study published today. It suggests that "sensible" limits for drinking may be misconceived.

American researchers, whose results are published in today's *New England Journal of Medicine*, found that people who drink three or more American-size drinks a day, containing 40 grams of alcohol, had 55 per cent less chance of suffering a heart attack compared with those who had less than one drink a month.

In Britain 40g of alcohol is equivalent to five units (a unit is half a pint of average-strength beer, a glass of wine or a measure of spirits). Safe drinking limits are regarded as 21 units a week for men, equivalent to 1½ pints of beer a day, or 14 units for women.

The study examined the drinking history of 340 heart attack victims and matched them with the same number of healthy controls. It found that those who drank between one and three American drinks a day enjoyed almost the same benefit as those who drank three or more drinks a day. Those who drank less than one drink a day, equivalent to nearly 12 British units a week, gained no benefit.

The study adds to the growing evidence that moderate drinking protects against heart disease. Those who drank most, regardless of the type of alcohol, also had the highest blood levels of high-density lipoproteins, which are known to protect against heart disease.

However, the journal says in a leading article that deciding whether alcohol is good for the health may depend on age. Evidence is accumulating that alcohol increases the risk of breast and bowel cancer, two of the most common cancers. Drinking also increases the risk of accidents and may have other socially harmful effects.

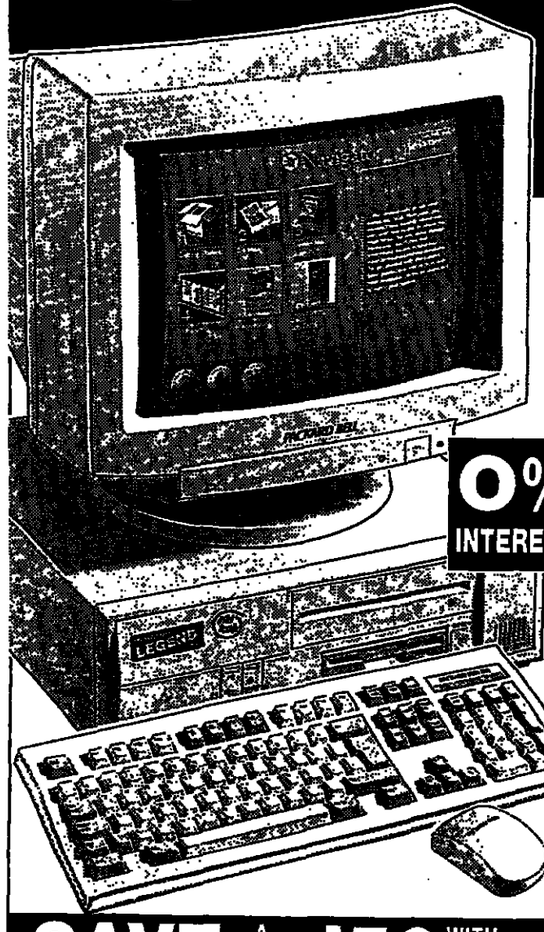
☐ Drinking clouds people's ability to recognise facial expressions and can lead to misunderstandings, psychologists reported yesterday. The most frequent mistake of male drinkers was to confuse a look of fear for anger.

Presenting the findings to the London conference of the British Psychological Society, Dr Geoff Lowe, of the University of Hull, said: "I think it could be one of the reasons why people fight when they drink in pubs. The problem is that by the time they have got to the 'Are you looking at me' stage they are beyond this kind of advice."

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Tolstoy fails in libel plea

BY A STAFF REPORTER

COUNT Nikolai Tolstoy, the author and historian, has failed in his latest attempt to avoid paying more than £2 million in damages and costs awarded to the Tory peer Lord Aldington in libel case about alleged war crimes. He vowed yesterday to continue fighting the case.

Count Tolstoy, 58, and Nigel Watts, 55, lost their plea for a ruling from the Court of Appeal that the debt had been extinguished. They claimed that the debt was cancelled by the terms of a £10,000 settlement between Lord Aldington and Mr Watts in March 1991.

Lord Aldington won damages of £1.5 million in November 1989 after a High Court jury found he was libelled by accusations that, as Brigadier Toby Low, he had handed over thousands of Cossacks and anti-Tito Yugoslavs to face torture and death by Communist forces at the end of the Second World War.

Lord Justice Neill said that it was impossible to conclude objectively that it had been intended by Lord Aldington or Mr Watts that Count Tolstoy was to be discharged from all further liability.

Count Tolstoy and Mr Watts later pledged to take their case to the House of Lords and the European Court if necessary.

BBC news 'belittles politicians'

BY NIGEL HAWKES SCIENCE EDITOR

THE BBC's *Nine O'Clock News* has won its authority by subtly undermining that of politicians, the British Psychology Society was told yesterday.

Although it created an impression of balance by setting one politician's view against another, the result was to cancel out both, according to *Paul Dickerson, lecturer in psychology at Roehampton Institute in London.*

The views of those who prepare the bulletins were undeclared and never countered. Instead, they were given the powerful support of filmed evidence and studio experts to back them up.

The result was to diminish the opinions and authority of politicians while bolstering that of the programme, Mr Dickerson told the society's London conference at City University. What emerged seemed to be a commonsense view of events, contrasted with the disagreements of the politicians.

Mr Dickerson did not suggest deliberate bias by the BBC. But he said: "The *Nine O'Clock News* looks as if it doesn't have a point of view. In reality it is hiding the fact that it is a highly constructed view of reality, and not the only possible one."

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

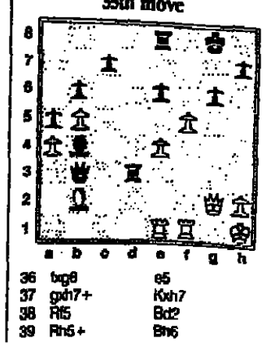
US championship

The US Championship in Long Beach, California, which finished yesterday, was dominated by former Russians. Alex Yermolinsky and Alexander Shabalov tied for first prize with eight points out of eleven, winning $7,000 each. Other scores were: Kamsky 6½; Dmitri Gurevich and Fedorowicz 6; Kaidanov 5½; Christiansen 5; Benjamin, Ivanov and Wolff 4½; Dzindzhihashvili 4; Gulko 3½.

Here is an example of the new co-champion's sharp attacking style.

White: Alex Shabalov
Black: Joel Benjamin
US Championship, Long Beach, December 1993

Diagram after Black's 35th move



36	bxg6	e5
37	gxh7+	Kxh7
38	Rf5	Bd2
39	Rh5+	Bh6
40	Bc1	Rd6
41	Bxh6	Bxh6
42	Rxh6+	Kxh6
43	Rg1	Black resigns.

Belgrade tournament

Alexander Beliavsky of the Ukraine secured one of the greatest triumphs of his career by drawing in the penultimate round with his closest rival, Vladimir Kramnik of Russia, and winning in the final round against Kotronias. Julian Hodgson, the former British champion, failed to win a game. Final scores, out of nine, were: Beliavsky 7½; Kramnik 6; Khalifman 5½; Bareev 5; Tiviakov and Romanishin 4½; Kotronias 4; Hodgson 3½; Damljanovic 2½; and Mozetic 2.

Euroclubs

In the final of the European Club Championship in Hilversum, Holland, Lyons defeated Honved of Budapest by four points to two. The Lyons team was composed of a Frenchman, Joel Lautier, an Indian, Vishy Anand, an Iranian, Mershad Sharif, and three Russians, Josef Dorfman, Valery Salov and Anatoly Vaiser.

Grand Prix

Michael Adams from Truro has, for the third successive year, won the Leigh Grand Prix for the best performance by any player in British tournaments.

Winning Move, page 44

هكذا من الأصل

Rabin returns deportees to occupied territories as PLO builds bridges with Europe

Arafat confident of early agreement with Israel

By Michael Binyon, diplomatic editor, and Richard Beeston in Jerusalem

AS SENIOR Palestinian negotiators in Cairo announced yesterday that Yassir Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, would meet again next Wednesday on December 22, Mr Arafat forecast that all the problems that had arisen on the Israeli withdrawal would be resolved.

"I hope that those ten days will be enough so that afterwards there will be a capability of implementing the agreement," he told a press conference in London.

He was also ready to meet Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister. He said the Palestinians could rely on Israeli good faith in implementing the agreement because it was signed in the full glare of international publicity.

Mr Rabin warned returning Palestinian deportees yesterday that they would be punished again if they sought to use violence to harm peace prospects in the occupied territories. Speaking in Gaza, Mr Rabin sought to play down the impact that the repatriation of nearly 200 Islamic militants would have on the fragile Israel-PLO peace accord.

"We will take steps that will ensure as much as possible that the return will not lead to a deterioration in the situation in the territories," he said.



Yitzhak Rabin warned returning deportees that they would be punished again if they resorted to violence

Earlier 197 Palestinians accused of membership of the militant Muslim groups Hamas and the Islamic Jihad were brought back into Israel after spending nearly a year on a barren hillside in southern Lebanon, where their plight brought them widescale international attention and sympathy. The men were taken to military detention centres where they are expected to be held and interrogated for at least four days and only set free after they have signed a document promising not to take part in violent acts.

However, Abdul Aziz al-Rantisi, the leader of the deportees, said that the mass deportation had backfired badly against Israel and that the men were returning to their homes in Gaza and the West Bank stronger and better organised than ever.

Speaking on the final day of his visit to Britain after morning meetings with John Major in Downing Street and with the archbishops of Canterbury and Westminster, Mr Arafat spoke of "turning a new page" in relations with Britain. He said his meetings with church leaders underlined the sacred position of Palestine to Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Mr Arafat showed himself peculiarly sensitive during his press conference to the reported criticisms by Palestinian colleagues of his leadership. He brushed aside talk that he was too autocratic, saying: "I am very proud of Palestinian democracy which allows any Palestinian to question Yassir Arafat."

But with flashes of anger and making much of imagined slights to his own dignity, he warned outsiders, especially Iran, not to "meddle" in Palestinian internal affairs. Outsiders, he said, had to "respect Palestinian affairs".

He also insisted that he was not going to be fobbed off with a partial solution that left the Palestinians only with the Gaza Strip and Jericho. "I do not want to live in a Bantustan," he said, adding that he had not given up his dream of a united Palestine.

His visit to Britain has yielded little cash or new promises of bilateral aid. John Major pledged that Britain would offer political underpinning for the PLO-Israeli Declaration of Principles and would help with the training of the Palestinian police and other civil matters.

There has been criticism in Palestinian circles of Mr Arafat continuing with his European travels at such a delicate time in the negotiations with Israel.

☐ **Vatican ties:** Israel and the Vatican will sign an agreement to establish diplomatic ties on December 30 in a historic change in the often uneasy relations between Israel and the Holy See. *(AP)*

Israel Finestein, page 16

CHRIS HARRIS



George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, embracing Yassir Arafat, the PLO leader, at Lambeth Palace yesterday. Mr Arafat later met Baroness Thatcher

Algerian militants murder 12 Yugoslavs

By Christopher Walker in Cairo

FAR from the bloodshed of former Yugoslavia, 12 Croatian and Bosnian citizens have been stabbed to death in Algeria as Islamic militants step up their campaign to force foreigners to leave the country.

The latest murders on Tuesday night, at a village 40 miles southwest of Algiers, near Blida, brought to 16 the total of foreigners killed since the December 1 deadline given by the Armed Islamic Group for all non-Algerians to leave the country or face death. The group's campaign has caused an exodus among the estimated 80,000-strong foreign community, and this latest incident will clearly increase the concerns of those who have chosen to stay.

The state-controlled APS news agency said that the dozen victims were all Christians, who worked as technicians for the Hydra-Electra company.

The other foreigners murdered since the deadline have been Malcolm Vincent, a British computer technician from Sussex, a Russian woman shot as she shopped in her local market, a Frenchman and a Spaniard. An Italian trader was ambushed but survived with gunshot wounds.

British troops take over escort role in siege town

By Tom Rhodes in Vitez and Michael Evans

■ After some governments ruled out using their troops to relieve Canadians at Srebrenica, a stop-gap solution has been found. British forces will do the job for 21 days

THE Ministry of Defence confirmed that C Squadron of the Light Dragoons would take over from the Canadians temporarily in Srebrenica in the east of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

It will be the first time that British soldiers have escorted convoys in the Serb-held territories of eastern Bosnia. About 100 men from the Light Dragoons were expected in Vitez last night en route to Srebrenica where, it is hoped, they will relieve the Canadians by the end of the week.

The United Nations Protection Force has known of the Canadian departure for six weeks, but no decision on relief was made until the last minute as the national governments of the Nordic Battalion in Tuzla apparently did not want their soldiers to take on the task. Dutch troops are expected to take over in February.



Lieutenant-General Frances Briquemont, head of the Bosnia Herzegovina command, said his only solution was to place the British in Srebrenica for 21 days. The temporary measure, however, is fraught with difficulties.

The Bosnian Serb army continues to block aid to the besieged town and has said it will only deal with the Canadians. It is conceivable, according to some soldiers here, that the Light Dragoons may have problems even reaching Srebrenica.

Aid workers said yesterday that up to half the 22,000 population of Srebrenica face death this winter if supplies fail to get through.

☐ **Skopje:** Britain, Denmark, France, Germany and the Netherlands will set up diplomatic ties today with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Eve-Ann Prentice, diplomatic correspondent, writes). This is in defiance of Greece, which says the country's name implies claims on the northern Greek province of Macedonia.

Draskovic rouses voters with promise of greater Serbia

From Tim Judah in Belgrade

AN ESTIMATED 30,000 Serbs cheered wildly at an emotional rally in Belgrade yesterday as the country's main opposition leader declared that Sarajevo, Mostar and towns across Bosnia and Croatia were "part of Serbia". Facing elections on Sunday, Vuk Draskovic declared that victory was in the opposition's grasp and sanctions against Serbia would soon be lifted.

Mr Draskovic, touted in Britain as a liberal, promised a greater Serbia and said that any agreements made by President Milosevic at peace talks in Geneva would be annulled.

The gravel-voiced writer roared: "Around Serbia and Montenegro, we will gather our Krajinas and our historic territories. They have their United States and we will have our United [Serbian] States."

He accused President Milosevic of "false patriotism", and said that he took heart from last Sunday's vote in the self-proclaimed Republic of Serbian Krajina, in Croatia, where a candidate backed by Mr Milosevic lost.

Opinion polls indicate that while Mr Milosevic's Socialists are still the most popular party, the outcome of the election is likely to be confused, with no party able to form a stable government.

Mr Draskovic, who alternates between extreme opposition to the war and zealous nationalism, failed to explain how sanctions would be lifted while Serb refugees would simultaneously return to Sarajevo and Mostar.

☐ **Inflationary change:** The Yugoslav National Bank issued a 50 billion dinar note to keep abreast of a world record monthly inflation rate of 20,000 per cent. The note is worth about £6 at black market rates. *(Reuter)*

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COMMISSION

The Citizen's Charter Local Authority Indicators

The Audit Commission has specified a list of indicators of performance which every local authority is directed to report under the Local Government Act 1992. This direction, the Publication of Information (Standards of Performance) Direction 1993, gives details and definitions for each indicator. It specifies the authorities which are required to complete the indicators.

This direction applies to the financial year 1994-5 and the indicators for this are to be published in a newspaper by 31 December 1995.

Copies of the legal direction may be obtained from:

The Audit Commission,
Nicholson House, Lime Kiln Close, Stoke Gifford, Bristol BS12
Telephone Number (0272) 236757, Fax Number (0272) 794100

The Commission has also published a paper, "Staying on Course". This explains the rationale for the indicators and contains a full list of them. It may be obtained from HMSO Publications (Tel: 071 873 9090), price £6.00. Local authorities have also been asked to make copies of both do



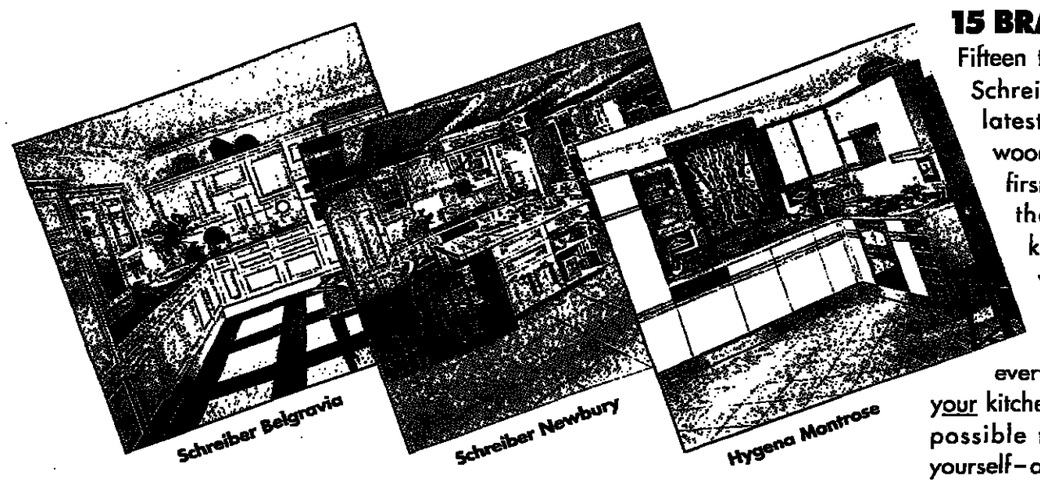
Loy: wit and intelligence

Myrna Loy dies at 88

New York: Myrna Loy, whose wit and intelligence made her the paragon of a perfect wife for cinema fans, has died aged 88. She was best known as socialite Nora Charles in the six *Thin Man* films of the 1930s and 1940s. *(AP)*

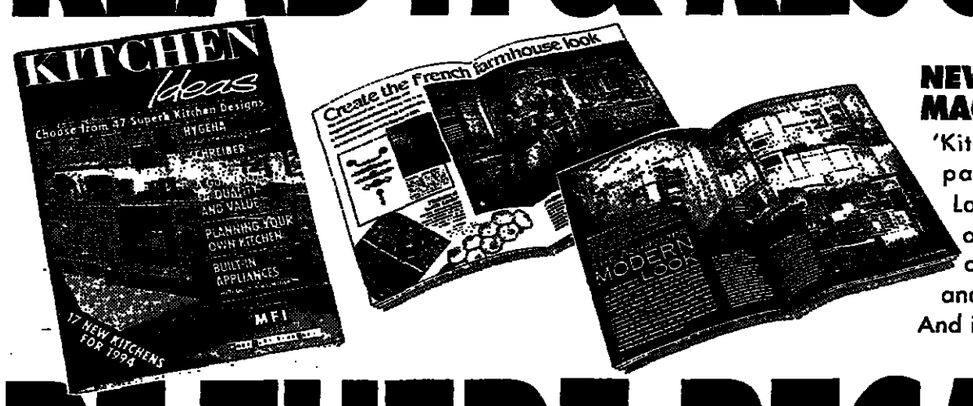
Obituary, page 19

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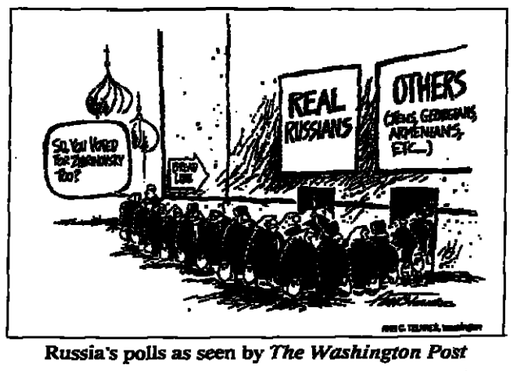
Washington 'startled and shaken' by success of Moscow extremists in democratic elections

Yeltsin gives America assurance on reforms

BY MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT Yeltsin has assured Al Gore, the visiting American Vice-President, that he would not allow his new hardline opponents in the Russian parliament to scuttle his reforms. Mr Gore expressed confidence that Mr Yeltsin would be able to "perform and perform effectively". But whether he really can remains in doubt.

Despite their outward equanimity, President Clinton and his advisers were yesterday described by one official as "startled and shaken" by the results of Russia's elections — and with good cause. Last June Warren Christopher, Mr Clinton's Secretary of State, told American ambassadors that the administration's top foreign policy accomplishment was its rallying of international support for Boris Yeltsin and his reform process. The administration fears that Mr Yeltsin will be forced to play to the ultra-nationalists' gallery, slowing his economic reforms, adopting a less cooperative foreign policy and asserting greater authority over the former Soviet republics.



Russia's polls as seen by *The Washington Post*

The rise of the ultra-nationalists will hamper Washington's attempts to persuade Ukraine to give up its nuclear weapons. It will complicate next month's Nato summit, where Poland, Hungary and the Czech and Slovak republics will almost certainly intensify demands for full Nato membership. It could jeopardise congressional support for aiding Russia although the administration is arguing that aid to alleviate the hardships of reform is more imperative than ever.

The election results appear to have taken the administration by surprise. Strobe Talbott, the American ambassador-at-large to the former Soviet republics, had reportedly assured Mr Clinton that the reformists would win. Mr Gore and his party, who arrived in Moscow for what was supposed to be a victory celebration, were described as "dazed and largely speechless". Their problem was reconciling their support for the democratic process with the unfortunate results of that process.

The idea of inviting Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the ultra-nationalists' leader, to the American embassy to meet Mr Gore, was quickly scotched. It is still to be decided whether Mr Clinton should meet Mr Zhirinovsky, or address what may prove a hostile new Russian parliament, when he goes to Moscow next month.

William Rees-Mogg, page 16
Anatole Kaletsky, page 27


Al Gore, the American Vice-President, at a US-Russia Commission for Economic and Technological Co-operation meeting in Moscow yesterday. He was said to be "dazed and largely speechless" at the results of the Russian election

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Estonia leader vows to guard independence

FROM NICHOLAS BETHELL IN TALLINN

"ZHIRINOVSKY is fond of saying that Russia ought to reconquer my country and make it once again part of the Russian empire," says Lennart Meri, the President of Estonia, as the Baltic leaders met in emergency session yesterday. "As far as he is concerned, Estonia was incorporated into Russia by Peter the Great — and that is that."

Mr Meri gave a warning to the Russian neo-Fascist leader, however, that Estonia had won its independence in 1991 without bloodshed, "and this time, we mean to keep it. We are Europe's front line, and I am scared for Europe's future. Our politics is the politics of survival as a nation, as it was between 1918 and 1940: Western politics is the politics of what sort of car a person can afford."

The Estonian leader said he was worried not only by the Russian election but also by Italian politics. "The two extremes are winning. It is reminiscent of how the Communists and Nazis united over the transport workers' strike in Germany in 1933, so allowing Hitler to come to power."

The ultra-nationalist Mr Zhirinovsky's virulent views on the Baltics certainly make it more difficult for President Meri to deal with the large Russian community in Estonia, which makes up 35 per cent of the population. Russians in Estonia claim that their human rights are being violated.

"Before you talk to me about the human rights of the Russian community here, you must understand our background. A secret decree by the Defence Council of the Soviet Union in 1944 decided that this region should be populated by Russians. Its ports were given over to the Soviet navy and its oil shale was to provide Leningrad and parts of the Russian military-industrial complex with electricity and oil," Mr Meri said.

"Thereafter, for nearly 50 years, we were exploited for Russia's benefit. This is how the Russian community was created."

On June 14, 1941, more than 10,000 of the best-educated Estonians were deported to Siberia. About 60,000 were killed or arrested during the war and another 50,000, mainly farmers, were arrested in March 1949. "We were crushed and our people were massacred," the President said. "Now that we are independent again, Russian leaders complain that we are violating the human rights of Russian people," he said.

Lord Bethell is MEP for London North West


Meri: worried about Europe's future

Literati's gloom speaks volumes

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

THE supplies of vodka, cognac and *shampanskoye* were unlimited and the guest list read like the *Who's Who* of contemporary Russian literary life. But as television lights illuminated the blushing winner of the second Russian Booker prize, the applause was brief and half-hearted and the gathering promptly turned back to its mournful deliberations about the fate of the country.

Fortune has not smiled on the Russian Booker, a brave attempt by the sponsors of the original prize and the British Council to lend a veneer of glamour to a tired-looking world of post-Soviet letters and tempt the interest of Western publishers. This year's victor, Vladimir Makanin, carried off the coveted £10,000 prize for his novel, *A Baize-Covered Tale with a Decanter in the Middle*, which centres on the plight of an individual faced with a repressive bureaucratic state. "The usual rehashed themes of ten years ago that no one is interested in any more," was the cruel summary of one observer.

Moscow's literary establishment has not hidden its disdain for the whole affair, claiming that the British-Russian panel of judges is amateurish and out of touch and that several contenders should not have qualified as novels at all but were unfinished works, memoirs or novellas.

The award has also been the focus of the increasingly bitter debate about Western cultural imperialism in Russia, a theme dear to the hear of Vladimir Zhirinovsky and his neo-Fascists in the new parliament.

The mainly liberal audience at this year's ceremony could hardly be expected to be in the best of cheer this week, perhaps recalling the words Mr Zhirinovsky hurled at a table of neighbouring democrats on election night: "This is not your party, this is your wake."

Makanin could hardly do much worse than last year's winner, Mark Kharitonov, whose *Lines of Fate* flopped at home and abroad. Among foreign publishers, only the French have bought the book. He has sacked his agent.

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China condemns Patten's Bill as recipe for chaos

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

■ The government in Hong Kong has pressed ahead with plans for a limited increase in democracy. Peking reacted by hinting it would intervene unilaterally

CHINA accused Britain yesterday of creating chaos in Hong Kong and destroying any chance for further negotiations after the colony's government introduced a Bill for a limited increase in democracy.

Included are proposals to lower the voting age for the 1994 and 1995 elections to 18, bringing more elected members into the various levels of government, and permitting Hong Kong citizens who sit in People's Congresses in China to run for office in the colony as well.

The Legislative Council will study the Bill and probably pass it by early February, unless the government once again yields to Chinese pressure and withdraws the legislation.

Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese paramount leader, warned Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, in 1982 that chaos was the condition which would provoke unilateral intervention by Peking. Last weekend, Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, recalled this statement and said that "man-made chaos" now existed in Hong Kong.

There is little chance for negotiations on the "more urgent" aspects of the plan proposed by Chris Patten, the Governor, which Peking has denounced as a violation of past agreements since its inception.

A statement carried by Xinhua, the official Chinese news agency, said that Britain aimed "deliberately to create disorder ... intending to unilaterally end the bilateral talks". It viewed the introduction of the legislation as "sabotage" and "another step towards confrontation".

China's representative office in the colony condemned yesterday's move and called on Hong Kong citizens to support instead the Preparatory Working Committee. More than half of the committee's members were appointed by Peking to create an alternative legislature.

The Legislative Council has been dismissed by China as wholly without legitimacy. On Monday, one of Peking's newspapers here noted that it was not even a rubber stamp, rather "a rag for cleaning desks".

Peking has now declared that on July 1, 1997, the day of the transfer of sovereignty, the council and all other forms of government in Hong Kong would cease to exist. It is unclear whether the Chinese intend to hold new polls, and if so whether all council members elected in 1995 would be permitted to stand.

Some of the most popular council members now, who will certainly stand in 1995 and will probably be re-elected, are described by Peking as "black hands", or anti-Chinese.

One such member is Emily Lau. Answering her suggestion that handing Hong Kong back to China was a mistake, Michael Sze, the Constitutional Secretary, who introduced the Bill, hoped for "goodwill and co-operation from both sides".

Mr Sze, who has also attended all 17 sessions with the British negotiating team in Peking, described the Bill as "part of our efforts to establish an open and fair electoral system". He noted that the legislation contained "the least urgent" aspects of the Patten plan.

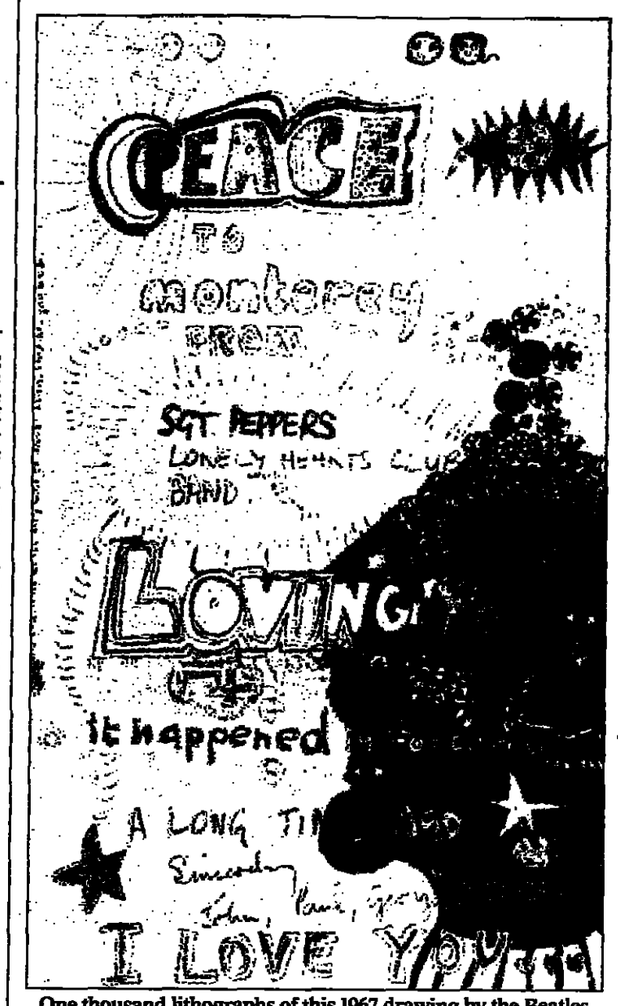
Mr Patten continues to hold out an invitation to Peking for an eighteenth round of talks to discuss the key parts of his plan. They contain proposals that would extend the voting franchise and make the council more representative.

As virtually all officials in Hong Kong concede privately, however, China's reaction to yesterday's modest legislation makes future goodwill and co-operation unlikely.



Patten: inviting Peking to continue talks

Lithographs of Fab Four's doodles to be sold for £5,000



One thousand lithographs of this 1967 drawing by the Beatles are to be sold for $7,500 (£5,000) each by a New York company

Beatles' art baffles with lost meaning

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

A NEW York company is planning to reproduce and sell limited editions of a unique, if somewhat baffling piece of artwork created by all four members of the Beatles in 1967.

The drawing, signed "John, Paul, George and Ringo", is the only work of art on which the entire band collaborated. Created using felt-pen, coloured pencils and ink, the drawing was produced in a London studio when the group was recording *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, probably their most famous album, and was then presented as a gift to the Monterey pop festival.

Michelle Phillips of The Mamas and Papas pop group had the idea to ask the Beatles to paint an official picture for the festival when they were unable to perform. She persuaded Derek Taylor, the band's publicist, to forward a request for a drawing to the group in London.



Lennon: the only trained artist in the group

John Lennon was the only practised artist in the group, and the band had never before attempted a combined work, which perhaps explains why the final result was so eclectic, ranging from the obvious sentiment "Peace to Monterey from Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" to the rather more mystifying figure at the bottom right hand corner who has shining records erupting out of his head. The Beatles did not perform at the festival, but agreed to draw something which the organisers could use as an advertisement.

Tom Wilkes, the festival art director, was presented with the drawing in payment for his services. The various cryptic messages on the drawing such as "It happened in Monterey a long time ago" (a line from a song made famous by Frank Sinatra) and "Congratulations Elvis" have not, and may never be explained. Similarly the identity of Stan (as in the message "say hello to uncle Stan") and Bob (as in "how are you, Bob") remain highly mysterious.

Planet Gear Inc. of New York says it plans to produce 1,000 numbered lithographs to be sold for $7,500 (£5,100) each. Twenty per cent of the proceeds will be donated to environmental and human rights groups.

☐ Singapore: Madonna has been banned from performing here during a world tour on the grounds that her show "borders on the obscene". The Girlie Show features scantily-clad and topless dancers, along with writhing bodies piled high onstage. Madonna began her world tour, her first since her Blonde Ambition tour in 1990, in London last September. It has already caused controversy elsewhere and encompasses ten countries including France, Israel, Turkey, Brazil, Mexico and Australia. *(AFP)*

Judgment beckons for pair in Beverly Hills patricide case

FROM CHRISTOPHER GOODWIN IN LOS ANGELES

THE trial of the Menendez brothers, which has shocked America with an unfolding tale of patricide and parental sex abuse in one of the most privileged communities in the world, is drawing to a close.

Separate juries are considering the cases against Lyle Menendez, 25, and his brother Erik, 23, but verdicts are to be delivered simultaneously. The pair are charged with the murder of their parents and could face the death penalty.

About what happened on August 20, 1989, there is no dispute. Prosecution and defence agree that the brothers, carrying shotguns, burst into the Beverly Hills mansion where they lived with their parents, Jose and Kitty Menendez were watching television. The brothers fired 12 to 15 shots, killing them.

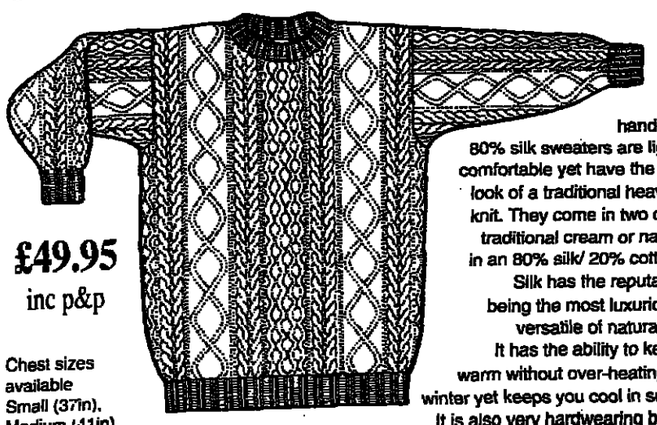
But those awful, bare facts are just about all that anybody has been able to agree on during the trial. Were the brothers, as the prosecution contends, "monsters" who murdered their parents out of hatred and greed for their $14 million (£9.5 million) fortune? Or, as the defence has argued, did the brothers kill their parents after being subjected to years of sexual, emotional and physical abuse?

After the killings, the brothers went on a spending spree. Lyle bought himself a $70,000 Porsche, a $15,000 Rolex watch, a restaurant costing hundreds of thousands of dollars, and a new flat.

To avoid convictions, the defence had to show that the brothers thought they were in imminent danger of being murdered by their parents. The judge would not accept that and last week ruled that the evidence did not justify allowing the jury to consider an acquittal. The best it seems the brothers can hope for now is a conviction for involuntary manslaughter.

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X106

World awaits benefits of marathon trade negotiations as Brittan is tipped for EC presidency

Europe will gain while Africa gets little help

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

YESTERDAY'S deal under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade is bound to give the world economy a much needed boost at some stage, but the precise mechanisms are still subject to intense disagreement among experts.

There is marginally greater consensus that the benefits are going to be unevenly distributed, that they will not kick in for several years, and that in the short run some of the costs may even outweigh some of the benefits.

In the most authoritative study so far on the effects of a Gatt deal, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) suggested that the benefits of comprehensive world trade liberalisation would amount to $274 billion (£184 billion) in extra economic output between now and the year 2002. This is sounds a lot but in fact amounts to less than 1 per cent of projected world economic output for that year.

This forecast was accompanied with an unusually large number of caveats, especially on the questions of winners and losers. The OECD suggests that the largest relative group of beneficiaries will be the countries of the European Free Trade Area (Efta) followed by Japan and the European Union. America is forecast to benefit least.

The rule of thumb in these projections is the winners are those whose exposure to world trade is largest, which explains the relatively unimpressive impact on America. Other studies suggest that Africa could be a net loser from a Gatt deal.

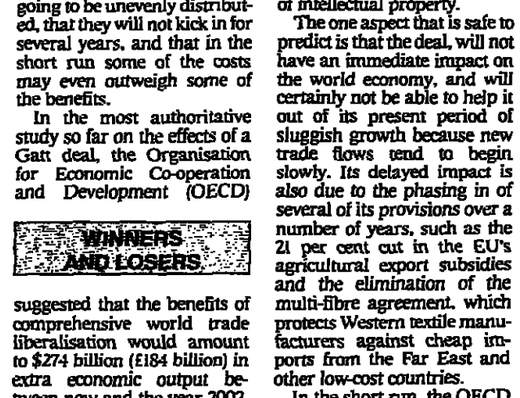
The OECD said that its study erred on the cautious side since it only calculates the effects of reduced tariffs on goods, leaving aside less tangible items, such as "the positive effect on confidence", liberalisation in services and investment, and the protection of intellectual property.

The one aspect that is safe to predict is that the deal, will not have an immediate impact on the world economy, and will certainly not be able to help it out of its present period of sluggish growth because new trade flows tend to begin slowly. Its delayed impact is also due to the phasing in of several of its provisions over a number of years, such as the 21 per cent cut in the EU's agricultural export subsidies and the elimination of the multi-fibre agreement, which protects Western textile manufacturers against cheap imports from the Far East and other low-cost countries.

In the short run, the OECD warns, the implications could well be negative, although this should not be used as an argument against free trade. Trade liberalisation, the OECD says, "involves not only benefits but also costs. These, in the short term, will be different in different economies. Such adjustments can be a painful process which requires careful management." Predictably, the OECD warns against protectionism which it defines as "a way of shifting dissatisfaction with domestic policies on to the outside world".

WINNERS AND LOSERS

Sigh of relief, page 1
Diary, page 16
Leading article, page 17
British benefits, page 23





As chief European negotiator at the world trade talks, Sir Leon Brittan has become one of the most powerful Britons in the Community

Masterly diplomat winkles unlikely concessions out of protectionist shell

BY ALICE THOMSON OF OUR POLITICAL STAFF, CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS AND JAMES LANDALE IN BRUSSELS

MAN IN THE NEWS: SIR LEON BRITTAN

THE euphoria over France's deft escape from international ignominy in the Gatt accord brought praise for Sir Leon Brittan's negotiating skills and even talk of French support for the former Tory minister to succeed Jacques Delors as president of the European Commission.

Mr Delors has said he will step down in 1994 and the Foreign Office has strongly hinted that John Major will lobby for Sir Leon's elevation. Yesterday Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, twice offered his support for Sir Leon's candidacy. Even the French, who some believe are the last people to want an Anglo-Saxon at the head of the Community, have been murmuring that he should be rewarded for making them the obvious winners in the round.

"If Leon Brittan decided he would like to succeed President Delors, I think he would be a very strong candidate," Mr Hurd said. "Not just because of the skill and energy with which he has conducted these negotiations but because of his record over the years as a commissioner, which has been one of courage, intelligence and dedication."

The Americans also admire him. Mickey Kantor, Washington's Gatt negotiator, called him, "a master diplomat with tremendous intellect" after he forced concessions on them. Even M Delors reluctantly bowed to him over the other thorny Gatt issue — protecting French farmers — and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, has praised his negotiating skills.

When Margaret Thatcher offered him a job as a European commissioner in Brussels, Sir Leon almost refused. The Cabinet Minister forced to resign after the Westland scandal feared that he would face an even chillier exile in Brussels than on the backbenches of the House of Commons. But Sir Leon has discovered that he wields greater political influence in Brussels than he ever did in Whitehall.

Although he disliked the macho scrum of the House of Commons Sir Leon is ideally suited to the maelstrom of Brussels. As a political operator he has always worked much better behind closed doors than in public. His staff say his two trump cards are his lawyer's ability to translate a complex EC brief into action and his drive and ambition.

Sir Leon became the youngest member of Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet in 1981 as Chief Secretary to the Treasury. As Home Secretary his star became tarnished and it was noted that he did not shine on television. His involvement in the leaking of the Solicitor-General's letter at the height of the Westland affair and banishment would have finished most other ministers.

On arriving in Brussels he did not take long to convince the bureaucracy that he was no poodle of Mrs Thatcher. He took an advanced French course and deliberately used it to surprise ministers and was outspoken on what he sees as Britain's carping on the sidelines. He has always stood firm on European monetary union but he was also the only commissioner to vote against the Social Chapter work restrictions.



Mickey Kantor: praise for Sir Leon's intellect

Sir Leon will face strong opposition from some Eurocrats who seen him as charmless, intolerably smug and unctuous. Other commissioners have also pointed out that Britain's Lord Jenkins was president from 1977 to 1981 and other countries deserve their turn.

French admiration for Sir Leon is tempered by deep misgivings starting with the fact that he is, in their eyes, the archetypal English conservative, committed to free trade and opposed to the kind of state interference beloved of the Paris governing classes. Sir Leon's handling of the talks in the autumn prompted sharp personal attacks from Alain Juppé, the Foreign Minister, and calls in parliament to have him hauled over the coals for going beyond his brief. But French officials said privately that Sir Leon was doing a pretty good job.

Spelling out what the deal will do

Geneva: The official text of the Uruguay Round trade agreement, a 550-page document, must be ratified by national parliaments and should go into effect in either January or July 1995. It includes the following agreements:

■ Multilateral Trade Organisation: a new body to replace Gatt, which was set up in 1948 as a temporary arrangement, will have tougher powers to police world trade and settle disputes.

■ Agriculture: outright import bans — rice in Japan and South Korea — and quotas replaced by import duties. These are to be cut by 36 per cent over six years. Government supports to farmers that increase production and surpluses to be cut by an average 20 per cent. Spending on export subsidies, mainly European and American, that drive efficient farmers out of world markets to be cut by 36 per cent, and the volume of subsidised exports by 31 per cent. Special provisions for poor countries.

■ Textiles and clothing: quotas used by rich countries to limit developing country imports will be phased out over ten years. Biggest reductions at the end of this period.

■ General Agreement on Trade in Services: first international set of rules on trade in services such as banking and tourism. Gats is meant to free trade in services as Gatt freed trade in goods.

■ Intellectual property rights: new rules to clamp down on theft of copyright, including "bootlegging" or unauthorised recording of live performances, and commercial copying of films. Tougher laws to prevent abuse of patents with general clause that all new inventions should get 20-year patent protection.

■ Dispute settlement: new system will operate much faster, arbitration decisions should have more authority, and power of countries to go it alone and slap high trade sanctions on other countries will be curtailed.

■ Subsidies: clearer rules on trade-distorting industrial subsidies. Those to boost exports banned. Improved dispute settlement methods for questionable subsidies.

■ Anti-dumping duties: tougher disciplines on exports dumping at below-cost prices, clearer definition of a dumped product and how it damages domestic industries, and new ways of settling disputes.

■ Import duties: not formally included in new Gatt document as worked out in separate but parallel bilateral bargaining. Goal of overall cut of one-third in import duties has been met. (AP)

Balladur fêted as hero of the hour

BY CHARLES BREMNER

EDOUARD Balladur, the French Prime Minister, looked certain to win a big vote of confidence from Parliament last night as he basked in the glory of what was seen as a Gallic triumph in the Gatt world trade negotiations.

Grumbling from the left-wing opposition and a dwindling rump of angry farmers was smothered by accolades showered by politicians and pundits on M Balladur and his Gaullist-dominated team for a virtuoso performance in extracting France from its lone opposition to America. Striking proof of M Balladur's victory was a poll which showed 66 per cent of citizens believed he had defended France well. A month ago, 70 per cent said France should reject any Gatt deal.

The conclusion of the accord on favourable terms had spared France from turning inwards on itself, M Balladur told Parliament. "That is the trap that, with all my might, I wanted to avoid for our country. France is never so great as when it opens itself to the world ... it has nothing to hope from shrinking or turning in upon itself." In a speech which resounded with echoes of de Gaulle, M Balladur, 64, said that when he took over from the Socialist government, France faced its deepest economic crisis since the Second World War. While vigilance was still necessary, he believed with a clear conscience that the trade accord was in France's long-term interests. He received a standing ovation from the house, which is dominated by an 80 per cent government majority. M Balladur moved swiftly to reap the political harvest from a gamble played out against a national psycho-drama that had threatened to drag France into the global doghouse.

FRANCE

The success in excluding culture from the trade pact, and in forcing a better European deal with America over farm exports, robbed critics of fuel which could have been used to sabotage M Balladur's eight-month government. He outlined ten reforms to tackle unemployment which, at 12 per cent and rising, is his key challenge.

Congress likely to ratify agreement

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

DEMOCRATS and Republicans have welcomed the conclusion of a world trade agreement in Geneva, raising hopes of a comfortable victory in Congress, which is due to vote on the ratification of the Gatt deal next year.

Approval by Congress, while likely, will not be given without a struggle. But congressional leaders from both parties were confident yesterday that they would avoid a rerun of the bitter controversy last month over the North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta).

President Clinton was yesterday due to give formal notice to Congress that a deal had been reached in Geneva, on the last day before the expiry of the fast-track negotiating authority, which prevents Congress from putting up amendments to an agreement. The President will send the final version of the text to Congress by April where a vote is expected, probably by August.

Most members of Congress expect a convincing victory for the agreement. Sam Gibbons, a Florida Democrat, said: "It will pass because it is just unthinkable if it doesn't. It would be an act of economic suicide and political suicide for it to lose." But Lee Hamilton, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, warned that he expects "another rough year" on foreign policy issues in 1994 as a result of public scepticism about the virtues of foreign aid and free trade.

The Gatt deal will face fierce opposition from congressmen whose districts are seen to be suffering as a consequence of the agreement. Among them are ten Democrats with strong textile interests, who supported Nafta after President Clinton promised to work towards a 15-year phase-out of the multi-fibre agreement. Mr Clinton was not able to deliver on his promise, as the final draft envisaged only a ten-year phase-out.

Disappointment is also running strong in the Midwest, and the deal produced anger in Hollywood because of the American negotiators' failure to include audio-visual trade in the deal.

UNITED STATES

Shoppers to see sliced prices for daily bread

BY ROBIN YOUNG

EVERYONE is agreed that British consumers will benefit from the Gatt deal, but no one can be sure by how much, or how soon. Senior Gatt officials admit that attempts to calculate the dividends of complex trade deals between 116 different countries produce figures which are "practically astrological".

The accord will not come into effect until 1995, and the tariff reductions it entails, some of which are still subject to detailed negotiation, will be phased in over a number of years after that.

The most swiftly recognisable gain for British consumers should be in the reduction of food prices. The inclusion of agriculture in Gatt for the first time promises to speed the reduction in subsidies which farmers in the European Community receive.

The Consumers' Association estimates that the average British family currently pays out £16 to £20 a week more than necessary in order to maintain European farm subsidies. Changes in agricultural policy will whittle those subsidies away between now and 1996, reducing the cost of a pound of beef by 20p, cutting 3p off the price of a standard loaf, and trimming 6p from the price of a pound of butter. Gatt officials have suggested that when the subsidies are phased out an average family of four in Britain can expect to save about £12 a week on their shopping bills.

BRITAIN

In 1990, the average price of a small-to-medium sized Japanese car in Japan was £5,227, while in Britain it was £7,642. Consumer organisations are confident there will be free trade in cars from 1999 and suggest that at present prices this would cut about £2,000 off the £13,785 price of a Toyota Corolla.

European tariffs, and the Multi-Fibre Agreement controlling imports from developing countries, currently add about 5 per cent to the cost of clothing imported from outside the Twelve. The proportion is more at the cheaper end of the market where developing countries' exports are most competitive. Dismantling the Multi-Fibre Agreement is expected to take up to £10 off a £200 suit, and possibly reduce the price of cheaper textile items by a tenth. Gatt says that quotas and levies on textiles increase the price of clothes for the average British family of four by £86 a year.

The 19 per cent import charge imposed by the Community on consumer electronics imports is expected to be halved. That would take almost £20 off the price of a £200 CD player, with similar savings likely to be available on videos, audio cassettes, photocopiers and computer equipment.

Tariff barriers against Scotch whisky will also be reduced in the key markets of Japan and the United States. British manufacturers of scientific equipment and toys also hope to benefit from the reduction of import duties in countries to which they export.



هكذا من الأصل

Monster treaty is born after seven-year labour



George Brock writes from Geneva that the real achievement after prolonged talks is the creation of a Gatt watchdog, first mooted in 1948

The city of Calvin and Rousseau has witnessed the birth of many treaties, but few have been as monstrously large as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade's *Final Act Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations*, which entered the world yesterday after a seven-year labour.

Everything about Gatt is long-winded. The treaty text and tariff lists will run to 5,000 pages, all of which will be impenetrably technical but undeniably important. In a world where postwar institutions and certainties are dissolving, cross-border trade now has the most far-reaching law and order system in history.

Given that the European Community has been paralysed by introspective gloom, that President Clinton has toughened American trade policy and that Japan has a weak coalition government, yesterday's intricate web of deals is a striking triumph against the odds. The document "gavelled" yesterday is only the penultimate stage: all depends on Mr Clinton's ability to push the treaty through Congress.

In spite of the last-minute hitches and excisions, the three aims first proclaimed in a casino ballroom in the Uruguayan resort of Punta del Este in 1986 have been met: import duties and other trade barriers are being lowered further; farming and textiles have become subject to Gatt rules for the first time; and a new and powerful referee, the World Trade Organisation (WTO), will police the treaty.

Gatt rules work on the ratchet principle. The wheels may move or stop, but they turn in one direction only: duties are always eased downwards. Countries cannot be forced to abolish an import duty on cabbages or copper coils but they agree to reduce and never to raise. From levels of about 40 per cent at the end of the Second World War, seven world trade rounds have cut tariffs to 5 per cent and they will fall to an average 3 per cent early next century.

Those figures conceal some sharp drops in the industrialised world. European Community and American negotiators began with the aspiration of cutting tariffs between the world's two largest blocs by a third; they have managed an average 50 per cent reduction. EC and American taxes on pharmaceuticals, building equipment, farm machinery, spirits, beer and toys will disappear altogether. The EC is cutting its tariffs on American electronic equipment by two-thirds, boosting a market already worth $13 billion (£8.5 billion) to American computer and semi-conductor firms.

Economists differ about who will win, who will lose and by how much. The heart of the Uruguay Round talks has not, however, been the elaboration of endless lists of items deciding issues such as the "rubberised textile adhesive tape shall be of a width not exceeding 20cm". The real revolution lurks in the treaty's opening clauses, which define the role of the WTO. The idea of an institution to enforce Gatt rules was mooted at the start. The first Gatt deal in 1948 was lucky to get off the ground after the US Congress killed the International Trade Organisation which was supposed to go with it. After seven years of suspiciously circling round the idea of a stronger trade body, American negotiators gave their formal assent only on Tuesday.

Even the name caused trouble. Gatt is at least a pronounceable monosyllable. The first attempt to name its new creation, the Multilateral Trade Organisation, was hardly snappy. Somebody offered the High Authority on Trade, or Hat, and someone else suggested adding "World" to the front — What. The What would have made a perfect partner for Who (the World Health Organisation) down the road in Geneva, but the Americans finally decided on WTO.

However ungainly its name, the World Trade Organisation can claim to be the treaty's crowning glory because it embodies Gatt's founding principle of equal treatment irrespective of economic clout. If the negotiations had collapsed, the losers would not have been Europe and America: the United States has already acquired a fearsome armoury of trade weapons for intimidating recalcitrant partners and the EC would soon have built a matching deterrent.

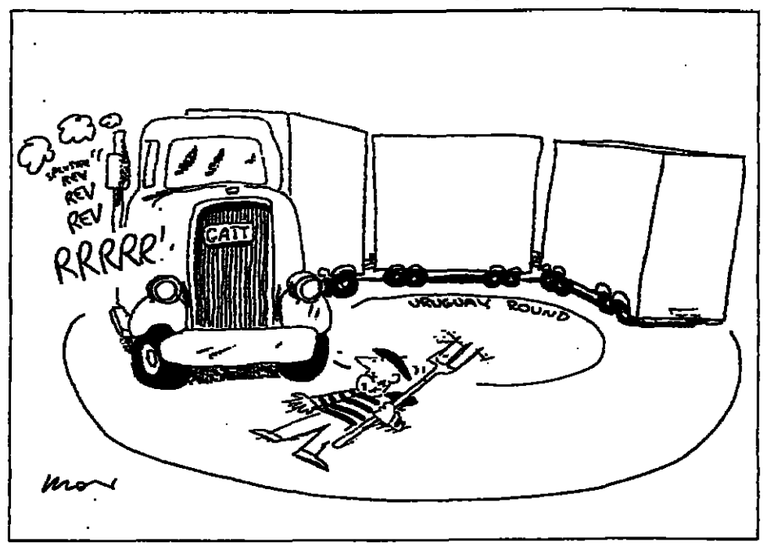
The victims of a failure would have been countries such as Brazil, Argentina, Indonesia and Australia — states with competitive exports but not enough clout to prise open the best consumer markets in the rich northern hemisphere. Members of the future WTO have agreed to bring their domestic trade laws into line with the Gatt treaty.

The European Community believes that even films and television will be within Gatt's legal scope, even though there was no EC-US settlement on access to European cinemas and television channels for American productions.

Gatt's disputes procedure has been overhauled and will accelerate. A permanent standing committee in Geneva will check that governments are behaving themselves. A ministerial conference will meet every two years to fine-tune the rules. The era of mind-numbing omnibus negotiations taking years to write a new treaty should now end. A fresh negotiation to make Gatt procedures more sensitive to environmental concerns will start in the next couple of years. For the first time, copywright and patents will enjoy global protection.

The great failure has been the hollowing out of the deals covering services, now accounting for a fifth of world trade. The United States has insisted on reserving the right to pull out of the financial services agreement after six months, a formula that will be used to pile additional pressure on Japan to open its heavily protected financial market. Only sectors such as tourism, construction and some transport are fully covered.

Farm subsidies have not been cut by the ambitious quantities once wanted by the states of the Third World and other countries hardest hit by the EC's common agricultural policy, but a trend has been started that will be impossible to reverse and should accelerate. By 2002, the payments which cause such havoc to world food markets will have been cut by 21 per cent.



The juggernaut of the Gatt negotiations as seen by the *Sydney Morning Herald*

NEWS IN BRIEF

India and Britain to sign jail swap deal

Delhi: India and Britain have agreed in principle to a prisoner transfer scheme allowing inmates to complete their sentences in their own countries. For British prisoners in Delhi central jail, the country's largest, this offers reprieve from grim conditions that have left most of them thin and frail (Christopher Thomas writes).

"It would be humane to allow British inmates to complete their sentences in their own country," Kiran Bedi, Inspector-General of Prisons for Delhi, said. "Although we have made substantial improvements, conditions here are not as good as in Britain." The jail has 8,300 inmates; it was built for 2,500.

The proposed pact, which could take some time to finalise, will not help those awaiting trial, often for years. The judicial system is inefficent, overburdened and corrupt: the better-off can buy their way to the top of the waiting list. There are 15 British prisoners among the 135 foreigners in Delhi jail.

Vintage verdict

Paris: A Paris appeals court banned the Yves Saint-Laurent fashion house from naming its latest perfume "Champagne" in France, upholding a lawsuit by growers of the famous sparkling wine. Producers insisted that only designated sparkling wines from the Champagne region could bear the name. *(Reuter)*

Two leave Iraq

Baghdad: Kai Sondermann, a German, and Jean-Luc Barrière, a Frenchman, who were pardoned by President Saddam Hussein and freed on Tuesday, left for Amman. They had been sentenced to eight years for entering the country illegally. *(Reuter)*

Japan backed

Tokyo: Boutros Boutros Ghali said he supports Japan's bid to become a member of the United Nations Security Council. The UN Secretary-General said that Japan would play a more important role internationally if it gained a permanent seat. *(AFP)*

Young leader

Vaduz, Liechtenstein: Mario Frick, 28, a lawyer, was elected as Europe's youngest head of government by the parliament here. He faces rare turbulence in the alpine principality where Prince Hans Adam II has clashed with MPs. *(AP)*

Troops leave

Mogadishu: A Western withdrawal from United Nations forces in Somalia gathered momentum yesterday when American, French, Belgian and Swedish contingents starting to pull out of the 29-nation alliance.

Two for road

Timaru: A New Zealand man who drank two pints of beer to calm his nerves before taking his driving test, which he passed, was immediately disqualified for six months and sentenced to four months' periodic detention after failing a breath test. *(AFP)*



Andreotti: denied links

Andreotti is grilled in Mafia enquiry

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

GIULIO Andreotti, the life senator, Christian Democrat elder statesman and former Prime Minister, struggled desperately yesterday to disprove new evidence of his alleged links to the Mafia.

"I have never had contacts with the Mafia," Signor Andreotti was quoted as saying in a letter to the political magazine *Idea*. The text of the letter was released a day after a 13-hour interrogation of Signor Andreotti in Rome by investigating magistrates.

During the grilling Signor Andreotti was asked to explain a photograph taken of him in 1979 at a Palermo hotel with Nino Salvo, a tax collector who was known to be a senior financier of the Cosa Nostra and who died a soon afterwards.

Signor Andreotti had always denied knowing Salvo or his brother, Ignazio, who was shot in 1992. Signor Andreotti claimed on Tuesday that he had not known who Nino Salvo was when the photograph was taken.

During the interrogation Signor Andreotti underwent a face-to-face confrontation with Balduccio Di Maggio, a "supergrass" who reiterated that he had seen the former Prime Minister receive a kiss from Salvatore "Toto" Riina, the alleged Mafia "boss of bosses" captured in January.

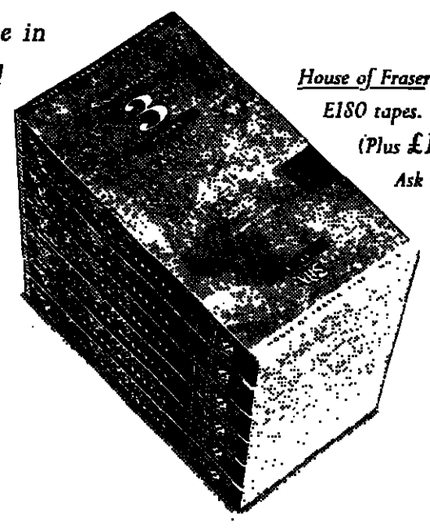
"Supergrasses entrap Andreotti," *Il Messaggero* said in a headline. It added: "Faced with the Palermo Chief Procurator, Gianfranco Caselli, he seemed for the first time in great difficulty."

In his letter to *Idea*, Signor Andreotti took issue with his old opponent Leoluca Orlando, the leader of the anti-Mafia party La Rete. "Orlando wrote that I had two alternatives — prison or to end up like Salvo Lima," Signor Andreotti said. Lima was his ambassador in Sicily and was assassinated by the Mafia last year. "I hope a third way exists." Signor Andreotti continued, "that is to say, the judicial ascertaining of the total baselesness of the accusations."

A GIFT FOR GIVING.

(We still believe in Christmas values.)

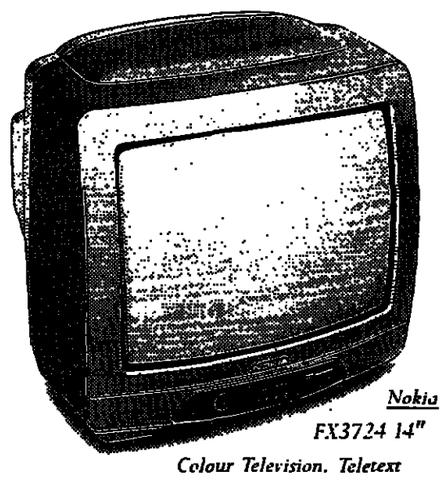
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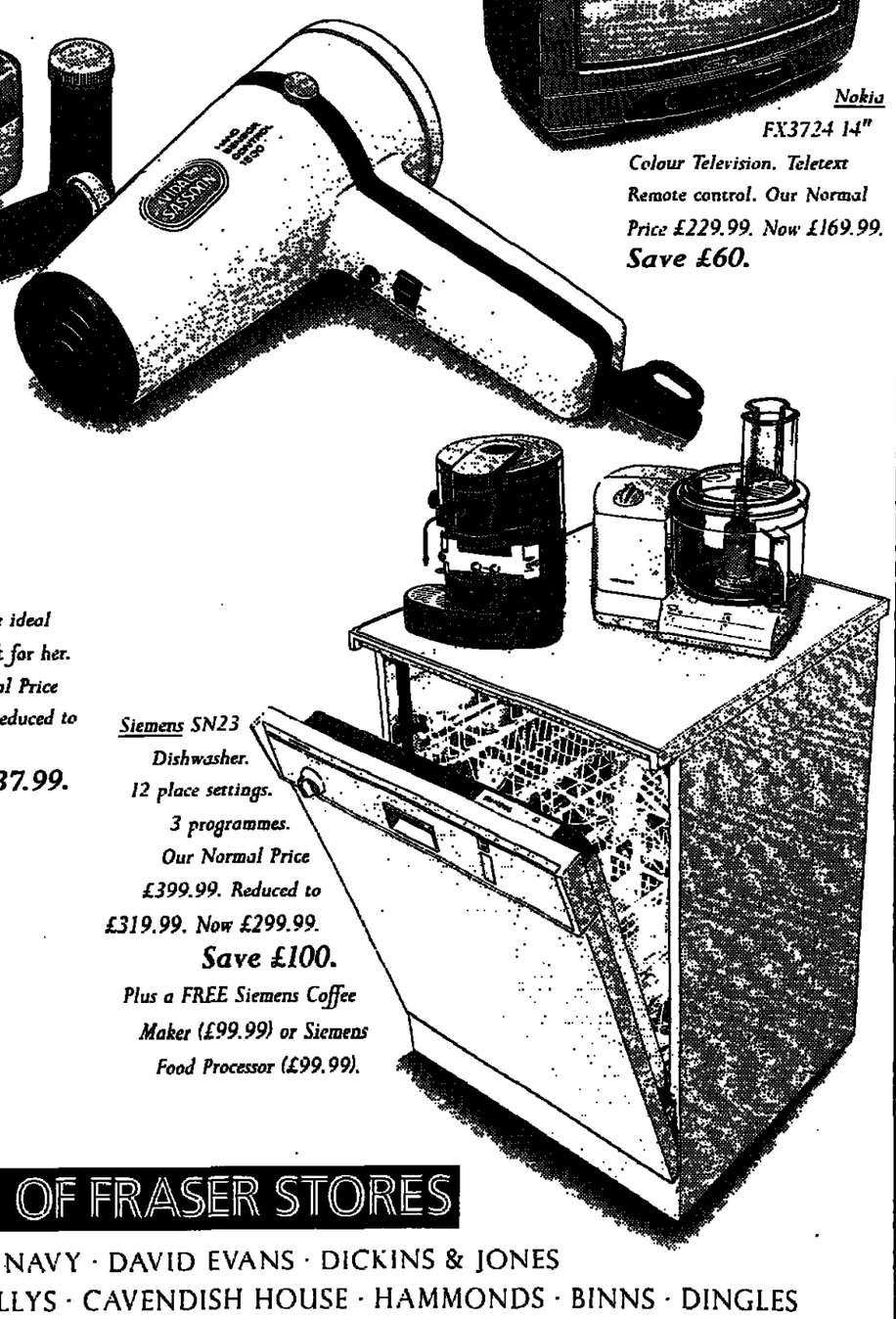
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CERTAIN MERCHANDISE WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE AT ALL STORES

Lessons for the little prince



LIBBY PURVES

When the Princess of Wales, in that affecting "farewell" speech, said that she intended to concentrate on teaching her sons "the tradition into which they have been born", I hoped that she meant what I thought she meant. After all, the tradition into which the poor little sprats have been born also includes stultifying formality, chilly hauteur and a compulsion to shoot pheasants, ride horses and toss off bland or impertinent speeches telling the rest of us how to behave.

I hoped she had in mind something not so obviously traditional, but which has characterised the better moments of the royal family in this century: a genuine, painstaking, sympathetic interest in every aspect of the nation they represent. It is the only thing which makes it decent for a monarch to talk about "my people". It was seen during the Blitz and has shone out here and there in odd moments of grace from various members of the family ever since.

This week, we had the first reassurance that Diana did mean that tradition. Without the cameras, she took the 11-year-old Prince William to a hostel for the homeless. The child stayed for more than an hour, shook many no doubt grimy hands and smiled at everyone — including, no doubt, those who did not smile back. He became the youngest royal prince in modern times ever to see and smell what it is to be a loser, an embarrassment, the jetsam of a *sauve-qui-peut* society. He will not forget it: 11 is an excellent age to see such things. You don't yet know what things cost, or that new problems are thrown up by every social solution. All you see is the obvious: that this is no way for anyone to live, and yet that those who do often show astonishing spirit, humour and humanity.

I know he won't forget because I was his age when my parents were posted to 1960s Johannesburg by the Foreign Office. They worried that we might get corrupted by the luxury of the quasi-royal existence led by our white neighbours in a prosperous suburb. We had the servants, the pool, the tennis court which were standard; they wanted us to understand what it was all built on. So, week after week, my mother dragged us down to Alexandra township on the Save the Children food run. In a bare compound where goats and naked children wandered loose and noisy, we mixed up the powdered skim milk and cut the peanut-butter doorsteps to be doled out, as emergency protein, to the queue of thin children in the hot sun. It was not — as some parents might fear — depressing or frightening. It made us think, but for a child that age the focus is on the efforts and determination of the aid workers, and the obvious rightness of allaying suffering. It was an inoculation, I hope for life, against certain kinds of smugness: but also an inoculation against the kind of pointless, self-indulgent hand-wringing which occurs when a hitherto sheltered adult suddenly sees suffering and murmurs "It really is appalling" or "Something must be done" without being able to visualise what.

The Princess has learned much, through her work. She gave her son a valuable moment, which must be the first of many. Prince William must be taken as a matter of course to hostels and cardboard cities, to children's homes and special schools, later to mental institutions and prisons. In time, he might help on a soup run on the Embankment, or kick a ball about in the yard of a young offenders' institution. At the same time, he will start to learn the politics, the economics, the frustrations of relieving suffering; but all in their right context. That is what I call a princely education.

The Christmas card code

Britons will send out 1.6 billion cards this December, but the pictures and words can hold hidden messages, says Julia Llewellyn Smith

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM



John Callcott Horsley's first Christmas card of 1843 showing a family feast, flanked by two panels, depicting alms being given to the poor

Hard as it is to believe, the annual ordeal of Christmas cards did not exist 150 years ago. There was no ritual agonising of whom to put on one's list and who to cross off, no competitive glances at the number of cards on friends' mantelpieces. People wrote a few letters to close relatives and had done with it. Cards were reserved for St Valentine's Day.

All this changed in 1843 when Henry Cole, a young civil servant, who later became Sir Henry Cole and a director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, realised he had forgotten to write his annual letters. He asked a friend, the painter John Callcott Horsley, to design a Christmas message which could be mechanically reproduced. Callcott Horsley responded with 1,000 copies of a highly ornate card, showing a family feast, flanked by two panels, depicting alms being given to the poor.

Cole took what he needed and passed on the rest to a friend to sell for one shilling each — an extortionate sum given that cards today can cost as little as 15p. Nonetheless, Victorian sentimentality combined with more effective communications (the Penny Post had started up three years earlier and pillar boxes came to London in 1855) ensured that this new trend endured.

Today, the British send out 1.6 billion Christmas cards a year and 65 per cent of us buy 50 cards or more. "Receiving a Christmas card means someone, somewhere, loves you," says Peter Howarth, the managing director of the Royal Mail.

A nice thought, but perhaps not strictly accurate. A glance at most cards tends to reveal far more about what the senders want to say about themselves than what they want to convey to the recipient. What charity you support, what message you chose, how you sign yourself and how many members of the family you include in the greeting all make up a social code that others will easily crack.

Take the Prince and Princess of Wales, both eagerly monitored in this department, as in every other part of their lives. Until last year they sent joint cards, signed by both and illustrated with a touching family scene. After the news of their separation last December, a card went out signed by both, but only showing their two sons.

This year, the princess is sending a card signed only by herself and illustrated by a touching portrait of herself alone with the boys. Prince Charles, however, has sent out copies of one of his watercolours of Ben Arkle in Sutherland, marked "The Household of the Royal Highnesses, the Prince and Princess of Wales".

According to Ron Parkinson, curator of "One Hundred and Fifty Years of the Christmas Card", an exhibition showing at the V & A, the royal family have only recently used photographs. "I think you can excuse that," he says. "If you are fortunate enough to receive a card from one of them, you want something more special than a robin or a bunch of holly."

> The Princess of Wales is sending a card showing a touching portrait of herself alone with the boys

The implication is that photographs used by anyone else are not excusable. "We have one card from 1989 of Mrs Thatcher and Denis standing on the steps on Number 10," he says. "She looks ferocious and he looks dazed. That is very unusual for British Prime Ministers, who usually chose landscapes or buildings. It is much more in the American presidential style and shows how Mrs Thatcher was trying to mould herself."

The American president can gaffe too, however. Bill and Hillary Clinton have this year issued a charming picture of themselves standing under a portrait of George Washington. Their daughter, Chelsea, is nowhere to be seen. The White House is denying that this omission has anything to do with Chelsea's looks.

Photographs are not the only way to make a point, as Lady Thatcher knows. In 1991, at the end of John Major's first year in office, she sent out a scene of the sun setting over Westminster. Mr Major's card was a gleaming portrait of the Treasury.

The following year, Mr Major's card was a nostalgic scene of the Horse Guards' parade in 1760 — seen by many amateur psychologists as a harking back to Britain's former glories, while Lady Thatcher used the far more positive image of the goddess Peace reining in the Chariots of War on Hyde Park Corner.

Last Christmas, Norman Lamont wished to represent the Treasury with a card showing Disraeli, aged 25, wearing pantaloons and smoking opium. This was considered unsuitable and was substituted with another of William Cecil, the Lord High Treasurer to Elizabeth I. "Cecil devoted himself to reducing debt, restoring the coinage, curbing inflation and maintaining strict control of the nation's finances," read the caption, wistfully.

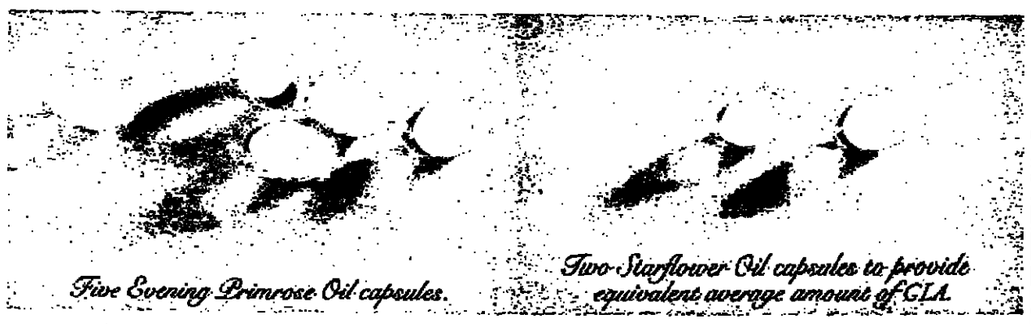
Such self-assertion pales, however, next to Michael Portillo's card this year, which shows the First Secretary to the Treasury dressed as a matador, in homage to his Spanish roots, and defeating a creature labelled PSBR.

Other people do not even attempt a joke. Lord Mason, formerly the Labour MP for Barnsley, has never been one for traditionally festive scenes, opting instead for bleak topicality. Last year's card was a watercolour of a gravestone, inscribed with "RIP Yorkshire Pits". Corporate cards tend to stick to bland scenes of company headquarters festooned with a few lights, but the scope for embarrassment is still wide.

The Arts Council cards for this Christmas show the Angel of Death from the National Theatre's current production of *Perestroika*. Many in the arts world see this as the council's present function. Last year the British Tourist Authority and the English Tourist Board sent out charming reproductions of Camille Pissarro's impressionist scene *Paris, the Boulevard Montmartre at Night*.

The future of Christmas cards is limited, according to Mr Parkinson. "By the beginning of the next century we will be designing our own messages on computers and faxing them to our friends." The scope for putting exactly the right message across will be endless.

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An adulterer can be king, the Archbishop of York says

Sex and the sovereign

One of the curious features of the present controversy about the Prince of Wales is that it erupted out of virtually nothing.

Groundless tabloid speculation led to a night-time telephone call to an Archdeacon, well known for his readiness to speak to the media. He duly obliged. Since then the mixture of sex, royalty, and religion has proved irresistible. The whole episode is a classic example of media-created news. The fact that it centres on nothing more than allegations of adultery, and on speculations about what might happen in some unpredictable future, adds to the air of unreality.

Nevertheless, there are real issues to be debated. Adultery, even if only alleged, is one of them. No Christian can condone actual adultery, and the fact that there is a lot of it about is no excuse. The prophet Jeremiah's unforgettable picture of a depraved society whose members "were as fed horses in the morning: everyone neighed after his neighbour's wife", is as relevant today as it was in Jerusalem in the 7th century BC. But there is room also for pity, for a sense of tragedy, for an acknowledgement of the multiple ways in which human beings hurt and damage themselves and each other.

The Times has already disposed of the fallacious argument that someone who broke their marriage vows might treat lightly any other vows, even those affecting their primary vocation. But it is not so easy to dispose of the general suspicion that flaws in private life may have their reflection in public life. Recurrent scandals about the private lives of politicians reveal that answers to questions about the relation between public and private morality are not simple. Efforts to bolster disapproval by linking unwise sexual adventures with security risks may frequently turn out to be rationalisations. But there are deeper gut feelings about the kind of people we want to lead us, however unfair and hypocritical these feelings might seem if honestly exposed.

The dilemma about what belongs to public life and what is properly private has been sharpened for religious believers by the pressures of a secular society. The increasing relegation of religious belief and practice to the private sphere has tended to increase the importance, at least in some Christian eyes, of those aspects of life which have always been seen as predominantly private. The strong emphasis by some Christian spokesmen on sexual morality has deep and genuine roots in Christian tradition. But there is also an element in it of wanting to extend control into one of the few areas in which commands can be laid directly and exclusively on the Christian conscience.

In a secular society, therefore, Christians may have a heavy investment in sexual morality, and may thus be more anxious to stress its relevance to fitness for public office. When emphases have changed so radically, and one has only to think back to princely behaviour in the so-called heyday of Victorian morality, it is worth asking oneself what is going on. As has been repeatedly said of politicians, and might with equal justice be said of some church spokesmen, traditionalists have short memories.



The Archbishop of York: "there is room for pity"

The other aspect of this strange hypothetical controversy centres on the question of whether a monarch with moral flaws would be fit to rule. Put like that the answer is obvious. Sovereigns are not required to be saints. Nevertheless, is the Supreme Governor of the Church of England required to be at least as morally sober as an archbishop? If supreme governorship were the same as spiritual leadership the answer might have to be yes. But this would represent a serious misunderstanding. A monarch's personal involvement in the Church is welcome. The role of the Supreme Governor, however, is not personal but institutional.

The monarch is the visible representative of the unity and identity of the nation, and it is the Church's commitment to the nation, and responsibility for its spiritual welfare, which is symbolised by supreme governorship. It would be theoretically possible to hold to the symbol even if in personal terms the monarch only fulfilled the minimum requirement of belonging to the Protestant succession. However, it might not be easy. Personal acceptability is important, but is not determinative of the monarch's role, and it is only the personal popularity of the Queen which has tended to obscure such a basic constitutional fact.

I suspect that much of the public interest in the archdeacon's intervention draws its energy from heart-searchings not so much about the royal family as about the moral life of the nation. We are increasingly conscious of deep disorders in our society, a loss of moral direction, of being at the mercy of powerful and sinister forces which sometimes seem irresistible.

Those who occupy symbolic roles are vulnerable to the unease and fears which this awareness of disorder can generate. If the current debate can be turned back in this direction and causes everybody to ask themselves how they measure up morally to their roles, it might even at this late stage do some good.

DR JOHN HABGOOD

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When tanning can accelerate infection . . . pregnancy and measles . . . diagnosing meningitis

Beware a glow of ill-health



AT CHRISTMAS time, those who are unattached and affluent are increasingly seeking winter sun and will then return to make others who stayed in Britain feel lacklustre and unfit. The untanned can take consolation from Dr David Shuttleworth, a consultant dermatologist, who explains in the *British Medical Journal* why the pursuit of the year-round tan is more likely to lead to disease than health.

Dr Shuttleworth's message is not entirely new: 40 years ago Professor Truetta at Oxford was teaching contrary to the established view that sunlight in general and ultraviolet light in particular was health-giving. Prof Truetta said it



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

reduced the body's resistance to infection and delayed recovery from tuberculosis, before the days of antibiotics.

Professor Truetta's observation has been supported by several recent research projects on the immune system. Dr Shuttleworth is now also able to quote from experience gained from patients with HIV. Two-thirds of these patients thought that a tan would improve their general health and many used sunbeds. In fact, experience has shown that such exposure may activate and accelerate the growth of HIV and other infections.

Those who want to emulate those with tans, and at the same time enjoy a family Christmas, may seek their year-round tan from a sunbed rather than the beach.

Dr Shuttleworth is far from convinced that manufacturers' claims are totally sound, for the ultraviolet A radiation emitted by sunbeds can cause increased skin wrinkling, irregular pigmentation, altered skin texture (photoaging), skin fragility and deeply pigmented freckles.

Dr Shuttleworth mentions one other sunbed myth: the tan it gives provides little protection from natural burning.

Danger spots

SO GOOD has been the response to the government campaign for MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccination that epidemics of measles are unlikely in the future, though scattered cases, particularly among non-immune adults, will continue to occur.

Contact with measles is particularly hazardous for women who are pregnant, who have never had measles and who have not been immunised. Research published in the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* has shown that within two weeks of developing measles, one third of the pregnant women had a miscarriage, or an early delivery if the pregnancy was well advanced.

Fortunately, if delivery did go to term, or in those cases where there was preterm delivery of a living baby, there was no increase in the number who had congenital abnormalities. In this respect, the consequences of infection are quite unlike those of catching rubella (German measles), which is caused by a totally unrelated virus.

The American research workers, who come from the Centre for Disease Control in Atlanta, suggest that this evidence makes it imperative that any pregnant woman who has not had measles, and meets a case of it, should immediately see her own doctor and, within six days of contact, have a dose of immunoglobulin, which has never been associated with complications in Britain.

The woman will be doing herself as well as her unborn child a good turn. For measles in pregnancy has always been associated with a high complication rate, particularly of pneumonia. This American study shows that when pregnancy is associated with measles it is twice as likely to necessitate admission to hospital, and six times as likely to cause the death of the mother.

Eyes skinned

TWO Liverpool children owe their lives to the television programme *The Time, The Place*, and to their parents' astuteness.

The journal *Archives of Disease in Childhood* quotes these two cases in which, having seen the programme, the children's mothers were able to diagnose the characteristic bruising rash of meningitis, or more precisely meningococcal septicaemia. Early diagnosis is essential if lives are to be saved.

Recent media reports have confused people by talking both of meningococcal septicaemia and meningitis; in fact both are manifestations of the same disease, infection with the bacteria meningococci.

In my own childhood, the disease was called spotted fever, which had the advantage of drawing the attention to the septicaemic rash which alerted the Liverpool mothers.

Dying for a chance to live

In Britain, 6,000 people urgently need transplants. Evelyn Byrne is one of them. **Aileen Ballantyne** reports

Evelyn Byrne has an exceptional talent for art. At 27, she has a first-class degree and could have a highly successful future — if she lives.

Her chance of life depends on somebody else's death. She is on a ventilator because she has respiratory failure caused by cystic fibrosis, the most common serious inherited disorder in Britain. Cystic fibrosis gradually destroys the lungs of its victims, often killing while the sufferer is still in their 20s.

For years, with the help of her parents, three sisters and brothers, Miss Byrne has successfully fought against its debilitating effects with a rigorous routine of diet, medical treatment, swimming, walking and daily physiotherapy. In spite of her problems, she has lived life to the full, passing exams, going on holiday with her boyfriend and excelling in her chosen course of study. But she is now losing that battle. Doctors say she can live for only a few weeks unless a heart and lung donor can be found who will match her in size and blood group.

Today, her family, with the full backing of medical staff at Royal Brompton Hospital, London, is launching a nationwide appeal for such a donor. They hope that over the next few weeks, the relatives of someone who is killed in a car accident or suffers a sudden cerebral haemorrhage, will, in the midst of their own grief, consider the possibility of allowing an organ donation.

Both Evelyn's family and the doctors recognise that medical advances are no longer enough. "We have all travelled over from Dublin so we can be with Evelyn," said her sister, Deirdre, a nurse now studying health education. "She has always been an extremely determined person and even now, it is Evelyn who is telling us what to next. We are preparing ourselves for the worst, but we are also hoping against hope that a donor can be found in time."

Dr Brendan Madden, a senior registrar in heart and



Yacoub: optimistic outlook

lung transplant medicine at the Royal Brompton, Europe's largest centre for cystic fibrosis treatment, stressed that her future hopes were now based on a lottery. "If, for example the only potential donor organs we receive come from someone is well over six feet tall, there is no way they will be suitable for her."

Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub, who will lead the surgical team performing the transplant, said that Miss Byrne's chances of survival, if the operation can be carried out, are good. Cystic fibrosis patients are given a new heart as well as new lungs because this appears to improve the success of the procedure, mainly because it ensures that only one anastomosis, or join, is needed in the windpipe, thus making it easier for the recipient to clear their lungs of infections.

Although cystic fibrosis is a genetic disorder, the new lungs carry their own genetic material, and the defect, which causes abnormal secretion of mucus and progressive "stiffening" of the airways, does not recur. The sinuses, however, cannot be transplanted and there is some risk of future infection, which needs to be treated with antibiotics.

About eight out of ten recipients survive for a year after the transplant, which is the most difficult period. The longest surviving cystic fibrosis transplant recipient in Britain was transplanted eight years ago. "About 160 such transplants have now been done in Britain," Sir Magdi says. "The lives of those who receive these transplants are totally transformed. The tragedy is that 50 per cent to 60 per cent of young people who could benefit will not receive a transplant due to the shortage of donors."

About one in 20 of us carry the defective cystic fibrosis gene harmlessly, but when a carrier has a child with someone who also carries the defective gene, that child has a 1 in 4 chance of inheriting both copies of the faulty gene, and thus developing the disease. About 1 in 400 couples have this chance of having an affected child. Screening tests, based on a mouthwash test, are now available for couples wishing to know if they are both carriers.

Cystic fibrosis patients are placing even greater strain on the waiting lists for transplants, as increasing numbers of people who have the disease are surviving into their teens and 20s as a result of increasingly sophisticated treatments for the disorder. Of the 6,500 people with cystic fibrosis, nearly 2,000 are now over 15. Two decades ago, when many more sufferers died in childhood, transplantation was not considered as it tends to be less successful in children.

Ironically, however, cystic fibrosis sufferers who receive a heart-lung transplant are not just an added burden on the growing pool of potential recipients. They also become "living" heart donors.

In a "domino" technique pioneered by Sir Magdi, another patient, waiting in an adjacent operating theatre, receives the heart of the cystic fibrosis sufferer immediately after it has been removed. Cystic fibrosis hearts are particularly useful for heart disease patients.

The psychological consequences of domino transplants are extraordinary. Inevitably, as both recipient and donor wake up in wards close to each other, they work out that one has the other's heart. Many have become friends with the person with their heart and remain in touch.

Miss Byrne shares one thing in common with many cystic fibrosis sufferers: discipline and a desire to make the most out of what may be a short life. A few days ago, she won the Christy Brown award for art. "People with cystic fibrosis have been primed since they were babies that life is not going to be long," Sir Magdi says. "Many were counselled about facing death when they were only nine or ten. More than most of us, perhaps, they know the real value of life."

But he stresses that, as well as young people with cystic fibrosis, there are many more people desperately awaiting a transplant as their only hope of life. "There are 5,998 people in Britain on the waiting list for transplants. Every case is a tragedy. But the worst tragedy of all is that when someone dies whose organs could be used to help someone, they are so often just wasted."



Evelyn Byrne, 27, a talented artist. Doctors say that she can live for only a few weeks unless the right heart and lung donor can be found

Are you safe in their hands?

The casualty wards in our hospitals are too accident prone

Imagine the worst: you are wheeled in the early hours of the morning into casualty. A young doctor examines you and an emergency X-ray is ordered. In spite of shock, pain and injuries you feel secure in the quiet, competence of these professionals.

But should you feel *quite* so secure? For one thing, according to one study, there is a one in three chance that if your young doctor is a Senior House Officer, he or she will miss an abnormality on your X-ray, if there is no supervising radiologist present — which is the case in many hospitals at night. This statistic is cited in *Medical Accidents*, which also mentions a study of 60 Senior House Officers on duty in Accident and Emergency Departments in eight British hospitals. These doctors all had three months' experience in their jobs, yet almost a third of them had had no teaching on multiple or minor injuries and nine had had no teaching in resuscitation.

Accidents when they do happen are almost never the result of a single negligent act. Yet in British hospitals, a "blame culture" appears to prevail which leads all-too-often to the finger being pointed at the individual doctor when a patient dies or is injured as a result of poor medical practice.

Compared with other risky enterprises, such as the airlines or nuclear power, modern medicine appears to lag far behind in attempting scientifically to control human error. There is a relative lack of managerial and organisational scrutiny of the systems of control and decision-making in hospitals within which fallible, tired and mostly junior doctors must operate.

One American study found a *ten-fold* difference between different hospitals in the rate of malpractice suits, giving clear support to the view that the system rather than the individual should be the focus of concern. And what makes an "accident prone" hospital or unit? According to this book, the same factors which make an individual doctor accident prone: low self-image, low energy, poor communication, lack of clarity about goals, inadequate training, neglect of facilities and recurring crises within the organisation.

One glaring failure in medicine is the degree to which a junior doctor's performance is depressed by having to work too long without sleep. In the airline industry, this would be regarded as "system failure" leading to an increased chance of a disaster, and the management would plan to minimise this risk by reducing work-periods.

The airline industry adopts "confidential reporting", whereby flight crews can anonymously report on "hairy experiences", without risk of being disciplined and blamed. No such reporting procedure exists routinely in most hospitals.

Surgeons and anaesthetists often have to make life-or-death decisions so quickly that consulting a set of guidelines is out of the question. John Scurr, a surgeon at the Middlesex Hospital in London, calls not only for an "accident investigation branch" for surgery, but also for periodic regular checks like those airline pilots regularly undergo.

Dr Michael Wilson, a consultant anaesthetist, says that human failure is responsible for 60-80 per cent of anaesthetic incidents, and that the constant vigilance required of anaesthetists is in reality seldom achieved.

Any medical procedure involves risk, and even if the safety-management standards were improved some patients will still suffer injury as a result of medical accidents.

How do hospitals help these patients? Not very well, according to Dr Charles Vincent's study of a group of victims of medical accidents: 1 in 5 of these patients waited more than six months for an explanation of their injury, and in only 20 per cent of cases did the hospital accept responsibility. In the end, only 27 per cent received an apology. If communication could be improved, not only might victims of medical accidents feel less aggrieved about their injuries, but it might go some way to reducing the accident-proneness of the hospital system.

IAN ROBERTSON

● Medical Accidents, *edited by Charles Vincent, Maeve Ennis and Robert J Audley (Oxford University Press)*

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What British Jews said to the PLO

Israel Finestein on his meeting yesterday with Yassir Arafat

When Yassir Arafat held out his hand to Yitzhak Rabin on the White House lawn three months ago, the world held its breath. As the Prime Minister of Israel observed at the time, it is not easy to transform years of hostility and violence into a realistic prospect of peace and friendship. The documents signed in Washington call for a revolution in thinking and in attitudes which will take time to seep into the consciousness of the world, let alone that of hitherto irreconcilable enemies. All of us viewing the Middle East have to think the unthinkable.

How many times has Mr Rabin emphasised that people can only make peace with their enemies, not with their friends? So Israel and the Palestinians extend to each other a cautious hand of conciliation in the hope that it may help to bring about the first crucial, if tentative, steps towards peace in the Middle East.

We remember with hope the late President Sadat's visit to the Knesset, which led in due course to the peace treaty with Egypt. Now Jews throughout the world have again been deeply moved to see that there may be a possibility of ending the hostility between Israel and its Arab neighbours. The state of Israel has never been allowed to know peace. Its right to exist was consistently denied. In Britain, the Jewish community stood behind Israel in times of war, as we now stand resolutely behind Israel in the still more precarious challenge of peace. This is why the Board of Deputies, as the representative body of the British Jewish community, had no hesitation a few weeks ago in voting overwhelmingly in favour of support for the moves towards peace.

> First and foremost, the PLO must condemn terrorist activities

We recognise, naturally, that there are people in our community who have genuine and deep misgivings about the course on which Israel has embarked. I understand and respect those feelings. Some people cannot bring themselves to suspend judgment on the years of terrorism instigated by the PLO and its constituent and related bodies. They believe that Israel is mistaken to negotiate with the PLO and that in so doing it bolsters the PLO's position. Others take the view that even if Israel has little choice but to negotiate with the PLO, Jews outside Israel have no business meeting Mr Arafat and thereby perhaps according him greater recognition in the eyes of the world.

My colleagues and I consider such views to be mistaken. The Board of Deputies has not initiated contact with Mr Arafat; but having received an invitation from the PLO to meet him during his visit to Britain as a guest of our government, we decided it was right to accept the offer. The issues involved have been discussed at great length in plenary meetings of our Board, and in the relevant committees. As the democratically elected body of British Jewry, the Board will do whatever it can to assist and support Israel, its initiatives and its quest for peace. We also believe that the interests of Israel and of peace might be furthered by a meeting at which the views of our community are expressed firmly and authoritatively to the PLO chairman.

Yesterday, when I led a delegation of leading members of our community to meet Mr Arafat, I was concerned that our discussions should be practical and relevant. This was no social event or courtesy call. Our sole interest lay in using the opportunity to emphasise our community's concerns over current problems in Israel and the territories. We were also anxious that we should discuss some recent statements made by the PLO and its chairman, as well as the actions they have taken or, in some cases, have failed to take.

In the course of our 45-minute meeting we raised a number of specific issues. First and foremost was the vital importance of PLO leaders condemning all recent and future outbreaks of violence and terrorism in Israel and the territories. We urged Mr Arafat to honour the PLO's undertaking to amend its covenant to exclude references to terrorism and its calls for the elimination of the state of Israel. We pressed the PLO to acknowledge the genuine security concerns of Israel and of Jewish inhabitants living in the territories. We also raised certain other matters, including the Arab economic boycott of Israel which stands condemned by the British government, and the plight of missing Israeli servicemen (whose fate and whereabouts are unknown).

By raising these points with Mr Arafat, we were not seeking to usurp in any degree Israel's role in the negotiations. We are not negotiators. We came to the meeting as concerned Jews, in order to demonstrate that on these issues Israel's concerns are shared by us, as by Jews throughout the world. The prize of peace is a substantial one, for which we all yearn; it is a focal point in our daily prayers and in every synagogue service. Nor can our meeting to the slightest extent weaken Israel's stance. Any suggestion to that effect cannot be taken seriously.

On this eighth day of the Jewish festival of *Chanukah*, we commemorate the efforts of our ancestors nearly 2,200 years ago to overcome attempts to destroy our religion and our independence as a people. The eternal message of the *Chanukah* lights is one of hope and renewal. There can be no more fitting message for our time as we look forward, through the difficulties and the shadows that undoubtedly lie ahead, to the bright prospects that peace offers for all who live in the region, Jews, Christian and Muslim alike.

The author is president of the British Board of Deputies.
Janet Daley is on holiday.



Russia's bad tidings

Zhirinovsky gives China and the West good reason to work more closely

William Rees-Mogg

Where is Russia heading? "The most likely fate for the former Soviet Union is to experience further stages of upheaval, probably including reactionary crackdowns and drawn out secession struggles. Before long, it is probable that Mr Yeltsin will be ousted by a Slav nationalist figure with strong ties to the military. It is a possibility of great political and economic danger."

That was the judgment James Davidson and I made in the second edition of *The Great Reckoning*, which was published earlier this year. The same paragraph in the first edition had forecast the fall of Mikhail Gorbachev. Now there is at least a claimant to the role of the Slav nationalist figure who might replace Boris Yeltsin, as Yeltsin replaced Gorbachev. No one should be surprised: certainly we were not alone in making this forecast. Since the late years of Brezhnev, the Russian economy has been in catastrophic decline. The real standard of living has fallen to a fraction of its previous level. Hyperinflation in recent years has ruined people. The Soviet Union has disintegrated, and Russia has lost superpower status. The state has lost control over organised crime; even banks are now victims of the protection rackets. Poverty, hyperinflation, national humiliation and crime have destroyed public confidence.

The pattern is familiar. There are parallels in the English Revolution of the 1640s, the French Revolution of the 1790s and the Russian Revolution of 1917. There are parallels in the history of China, countless parallels in Latin America, and parallels in ancient history, including the end of the Roman Republic. There is a parallel, perhaps a misleading one, in the end of the Weimar republic and the rise of Hitler. The old regime breaks down; the successor regime fails to solve social and economic problems; a dictator emerges. It is one of the classic cycles of human history.

For the present, Vladimir Zhirinovsky is in a very favourable situation, precisely because he is not in power. He has become the leader of the largest party in the new parliament, because he has attacked all the symptoms of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Russian economy. The Yeltsin government is still responsible for the desperate condition of the Russian people; it has to rebuild their standard of living, end inflation, control crime and restore national morale. These tasks seem impossible, at least with the instruments available to Mr Yeltsin. He is trying to revive a civil order which has never really existed. Russia has never had the political and business institutions of a modern state; even in 1917, it was a backward country, although industrial development had been rapid before 1914. After the Revolution, communism took Russia down a long blind alley and prevented the natural development of all private institutions.

So the comparison with Hitler is a dangerous one. In 1933, Hitler took power in one of the most advanced of industrial societies, with modern technology and strong existing business and state organisations. Within five years, he was able to create the world's most powerful army and air force, whose performance in the Second World War was outstanding. Modern Russia is not a comparable power to the Germany of the 1930s in industry, technology or armed force. There is no chance of Russian defence technology matching the American in the next decade, whoever came to power.

Nevertheless, the Russian election results are very dangerous. Whether or not Mr Zhirinovsky himself turns out to be the nationalist dictator of the future, this election has shown the strength of public support for nationalism and racism. The old devils are still alive. The parallel with a German dictator like Hitler may be less relevant than the comparison with a Slav quasi-dictator like Milosevic. He is after all the nationalist leader of a bankrupt Slav country with tribal claims on its neighbours. That is exactly what Mr Zhirinovsky aspires to be. We ought to be more concerned about possible Bosnias than possible *Blitzkreigs*.

The impact of the Zhirinovsky election victory is spreading out in concentric circles from Moscow. It is most alarming to the democratic and reformist groups in Russia itself. The advance to freedom in Russia is directly threatened. The next circle is the countries of the former Soviet Union, among which the Baltic states and the Ukraine feel directly threatened. Beyond that there are the former Warsaw Pact countries and the great neighbour, China. Beyond that lie Germany and the rest of Europe; further off still is the United States.

One of the safeguards of the Cold War was that there existed definite spheres of influence deriving ultimately from the wartime Yalta conference. When, after the war, Russia put down revolts in Hungary, Poland, East Germany or Czechoslovakia, the West did not intervene because those countries were in the Russian sphere of influence. Nor did the Soviet Union intervene when Britain supported the anti-communist forces in the Greek civil war. In what circumstances would the West intervene now?

No one can tell for sure. Bosnia might suggest that there are no circumstances in which the West would use force to resist Russian power in neighbouring countries, but that is not a safe conclusion.

I believe that there are five categories. Nato would certainly defend all Nato countries, including Turkey. Nato would probably defend independent countries of Eastern Europe or Scandinavia, including Finland and the old Warsaw Pact countries Poland, Hungary and the Czech republic. Nato might defend special cases among the old Soviet Union countries, including the Baltic states and possibly including the Ukraine, for nuclear reasons. Nato would probably not defend other former Soviet Union countries, such as the Islamic states. Nato would certainly not defend ethnic minorities within Russia itself which tried to break away. But that can only be an opinion. We knew where the Iron Curtain was, and which countries were on which side of it. Now there is no certain frontier, but there are still nuclear weapons.

There are more distant diplomatic consequences too. The only safe assumption from now on is that the Russian government could fall into the hands of a potentially aggressive Slav nationalist. That has various world consequences. It strengthens the diplomatic position of the United States, just as the first market reaction was to buy the dollar. The importance of American defence power rises when peace looks less certain. Correspondingly, Europe becomes more dependent on the United States, and the influence of Germany — as the major European power closest to Russia — is reduced accordingly.

Both the West and China have a new motive to draw closer together to resolve their outstanding problems. This should be favourable for Hong Kong: neither side can afford to quarrel with the other when the future of Russian policy is in doubt.

In the elections, a large number of soldiers voted for Mr Zhirinovsky; his nationalism is undoubtedly popular in the Red Army. However the Russian General Staff seem to have a clear view of the military realities. The Gulf War demonstrated that Russian equipment stood no chance against the modern electronic delivery systems of the American and British forces. Any open war in such circumstances would be suicidal. The strategy of the General Staff seems to be to keep out of Russian politics, to preserve as much as possible of Russia's present military capacity and to rebuild for a future conceived in decades rather than years. As in the Germany of the 1920s, therefore, there is probably a split between the emotional appeal of nationalism for many soldiers and the caution among the General Staff who know its limitations. In Germany, the General Staff never wanted war — not in 1933, not in 1938, not even in 1939. The Russian General Staff is now almost certainly a pacific influence, but dictators can overrule the caution of their commanders.

Three very unpleasant facts stand out. About a quarter of Russians have voted for a racist and anti-Semite leader. About a quarter of Russians have voted for a man who freely threatens to use nuclear weapons. About a quarter of Russians have voted for a man who is a nationalist in the Serbian sense of that word.

A fourth unpleasant fact is that Russia is not making a good recovery from its catastrophic economic collapse, so there is no reason why this nationalist tide should turn. Russia certainly does not have the power to wage war on the world; unfortunately Russia would have the power, under other leadership, to terrify its neighbours, and she has a large stock of nuclear weapons with which to threaten them.

Show the Union is firm

Pious declarations make no odds, says J. Enoch Powell

There does exist a way to bring peace to Northern Ireland. That way is not to be found in the urbane verbiage, carefully constructed to conceal divergences, of yesterday's Joint Declaration.

Terrorism in Northern Ireland is the work of the IRA and of those who mistakenly and criminally attempt to react to that terrorism by similiar atrocities. The objective of the IRA is, and always has been, to force Northern Ireland out of the Union with Great Britain into some kind of all-Ireland state. For the past 20 years, the IRA has been encouraged by the spectacle of a British government which has laboured might and main to break the Union with Ulster, to dilute that Union or to alter it to something else.

The men of the IRA are not stupid. They know, and have in the past shown that they know, just when to suspend operations which for the time being have become unproductive. Nothing, on the other hand, encourages them more than the sense that they are winning and only need "one more heave".

To deprive them of that prospect and delusion is therefore the key to peace. The IRA will not cease to exist. Something like the IRA is endemic in republican Ireland. It can be put out of operation, however, by unmistakable evidence that the Union is not going to be broken in the foreseeable future. That evidence has never once been given in the past 20 years.

It is entirely within the power of Her Majesty's Government to be seen to treat the Union as permanent by governing Northern Ireland exactly like any other part of the United Kingdom. That, after all, is what every one of the 17 constituencies of Northern Ireland asked for at the last election, by returning representatives to sit in Parliament at Westminster and rebuffing all candidates who would not undertake to do so. No need for referenda or opinion polls there! Ulster continues to vote to be part of the United Kingdom, exactly as Cornwall or Norfolk do.

To govern Ulster exactly like any other part of the UK is simple enough. Let Parliament make the law in Ulster as it makes the law for the rest of the United Kingdom. Abolish the proconsular, undemocratic legislation by Order in Council which has been in force since 1972. Give back to Ulster the elective local government which was taken away in 1972, so that locally elected bodies deal with exactly the same subjects as local authorities in England, Wales and Scotland. Let the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland have the same functions, no more no less, than the Secretary of Wales has in the Principality.

Why have these simple actions not been taken years ago? Because, as the IRA can see and as Simon Jenkins wrote on this page earlier this week, Whitehall has been "wriggling and scheming to rid itself of Ulster".

Stop being seen to be thrusting Ulster out of the UK. Frankly and candidly give our fellow citizens in the six counties the same rights and the same form of government as we in Great Britain take for granted. Whether Europe and the United States like it or not, that will do more to bring back peace and safety than the nicely calculated balance of carefully turned phrases in the Joint Declaration. It is time we seized the key to peace at last.

Forget all about the Irish Republic's constitution, which claims Northern Ireland as part of that state. There is nothing to stop China asserting that Britain is a province of China; but if that absurd and impertinent claim were given up, that would not entitle China to annex East Anglia. So long as Britain wholeheartedly treats Ulster as integral, the Irish Republic can keep Articles 2 and 3 in its constitution as long as it likes or as long as its politicians find convenient.

Keep it square

JOHN MAJOR'S "Back to Basics" initiative is gathering pace — and in areas of which he would approve wholeheartedly. Marylebone Cricket Club appears to have endorsed the Government's new philosophy by trying to bring back a sense of decorum on the cricket square.

Early next month, a squad of MCC cricketers will be briefed on dress sense and behaviour before they set off on an African tour taking in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, the Gambia and Ghana.

Mindful of past criticisms of Graham Gooch's appearance and the England team's allegedly boorish behaviour, instructions on the etiquette of drinking, shaving and strong language can be expected. "We want to bring back traditional values," says Stephen Henderson, who captains the touring side which includes England players Richard Illingworth and Tony Piggott. "We are issuing cricket caps as opposed to baseball caps, and we will not tolerate any swearing."

Henderson is also concerned about gum, which batsmen tend to chew to aid concentration. "It's a very difficult thing to legislate against," he says. "But what I do not want to see is people who are at the crease hitting their gum into the crowds when they are out."

Colonel John Stephenson, secretary of MCC, is very much in favour of pukka behaviour, as the tours should promote what is best about the game. Standards, he sighs, are slipping. "We don't want any of this hugging and putting their hands together when they score, or when they get someone out," he declares. "We don't want any pressure on the umpires — and we can't have them squirting champagne over everyone."



DIARY

● *Politicians traditionally grant the weary public a short break over Christmas from the unending succession of photo opportunities. Not so John Smith. The Labour leader is visiting Israel over the holidays. And on Christmas Eve? Accompanied by his wife and daughters, we are told, Smith will be in Bethlehem.*

Moving house

THE old maxim that Sotheby's are auctioneers trying to be gentlemen, while their rivals at Christie's are gentlemen struggling to become auctioneers is proving truer than ever. Lord Camoys, recently appointed as Sotheby's new deputy chairman, has confessed that like the true gentleman he is, he has always sold through Christie's.

Camoys, who will take up the post next April, is unashamed. "I have not been so big in the art market that it has been a major decision, but I have always used Christie's. I inherited a collection of works of art and Christie's did the valuation, so I knew them, and therefore used them when I had things to sell. But I have used Sotheby's as well — I bought two drawings there."

And besides, he adds, "Christie's did not approach me with this sort of job. It is difficult to draw a distinction between the two. They are two very fine houses, but Sotheby's asked me... and I shared a room with Grey Gowrie for two years at Balliol." Which explains everything.

Roux'd food

THE Waterside Inn's Michel Roux is seldom far from gastronomic delights, but he has been deprived lately of the kind of fare to which he is accustomed. He has been receiving treatment in the exclusive London Clinic.

"Yes, I have a little wear and tear on my shoulder. But I will soon be able to whisk the food and whip the staff again," he says, back in his kitchens. Roux has only praise for hospital grub. But this was not all he ate during his three-night stay. "When you love your food and people know you love your food, then they can spoil you," he explains. "So my wife brought me a little beef stew on one occasion." Containing just a soupçon of rather good wine, of course.

● *Alan Clark's dramatic U-turn to avoid press photographers after Tuesday's hearing of the Scott enquiry was not without cost. In leaving the blind alley into which he had inadvertently turned, Clark clipped a car belonging to the BBC. To his considerable annoyance, the Beeb promptly reported the incident to the police.*

Modern, innit?

AT LONDON'S Tate Gallery, the festive season is well under way. Fresh from the controversy over the Turner "but-is-it-art?" Prize, the gallery celebrates the nativity this year with an upside-down Christmas tree.

The tree, which will no doubt turn sceptics apoplectic, has been created by sculptor Shirazeh Houshiary, who, according to a Tate spokesman, "has turned the tree upside-down, exposing its roots and hanging it from the ceiling of the gallery, thus creating the impression of the tree floating in air with the roots free from their earthly constraints".

Houshiary apparently describes her tree as "taking earth back to heaven", which, the spokesman says, "refers to her interest in astronomy, mysticism and the interplay between light and dark". Which should please Father Christmas anyway.



Through the culture barrier

Jacques Toubon, France's Minister for Culture (*left*), naturally fought with *élan* during the closing stages of the Gatt talks to protect his country from tons of cheap American pap. Yet France's prestigious award of Commander in the Order of Arts and Letters will be bestowed next month, at the request of the urbane Toubon — on Diana Ross (*right*).

So impressed is Toubon with the singer, who has clocked up 18 Number One hits, that the international music festival in Cannes, Midem '94, will designate February 4 as a special day in her honour. The mayor will hang a gold medal around her neck and 500 stars have been invited to a gala dinner. Xavier Roy, Midem's chief executive, is delighted with the choice. "I find it very fitting to have this opportunity to honour Miss Ross at Midem, where she and *The Supremes* performed during the early years of her spectacular 30-year career."

Thanks to Toubon's efforts in Gatt, however, French fans may have trouble acquiring videos of *Lady Sings the Blues*.

هكذا من الأصل

TIMES PAST — THE TIMES

BEAUTIFUL VICTORY

Even a battered GATT accord is a triumph for its makers

The agreement reached in Geneva yesterday opens the road to a sharp rise in international trade. It should bring decent livelihoods to millions. By easing the transformation of the former communist economies, it should also advance the peace as well as the wealth of nations.

The protracted and often bitterly-contested Uruguay Round of the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade has fallen short of some of its original goals, particularly in curbing agricultural protectionism. America and the European Union, instead of leading the world in liberalising the trading system from which they gain so greatly, came close to sabotaging the Round.

Yet with all the scars it bears from their unedifying squabbles over corn-gluten, shipping monopolies and audiovisual protectionism, this dry technical document is still a political achievement comparable to that of the handful of farsighted men, Maynard Keynes among them, who created the Bretton Woods system during the Second World War. The Allies' over-riding aim then was to prevent governments from lapsing into the ruinous protectionism of the 1930s, and they were rewarded by an unprecedented trade-led surge in global growth which began to falter only in the 1980s.

That wartime labour of the imagination can only now be said to be in sight of completion. The United States baulked at an International Trade Organisation 45 years ago. Now, at a time of almost equal political uncertainty and of unparelleled technological change, it has given the green light to a new World Trade Organisation (WTO), a referee with powers to oblige governments to act in accordance with international trading rules. This will curb the practice of discriminatory trading retaliation and disguised protectionism by the world's trading giants.

Gatt, the temporary stopgap which owes its continued existence to that first failure, has compensated more than stalwartly, reducing tariff barriers to trade by 45 per cent since 1948. Until recently the most invisible of international bodies, Gatt's record in adding to the sum of human well-being far outshines that of most United Nations agencies. American doubts about the value of a WTO rested partly on the fear that it would develop the bureaucratic sclerosis which afflicts the UN, and to which Gatt has been markedly immune. But the multilateral system needed strengthening. The WTO will have tougher and speedier machinery for settling trade disputes.

The Uruguay Round will, if haltingly, bring farm trade, textiles and many aspects of services under international disciplines for the first time. If yesterday's accord between 116 states is ratified, it will create the comprehensive trading framework needed for the realisation of the 21st century's economic and technical potential.

The most immediate effect of this deal will be to lift the threat of trade wars which has damaged business confidence and, consequently, investment. The gains in terms of jobs and output will not be immediately realised, although by 2005 Gatt estimates that trade will be 12 per cent higher than it would have been without a deal. America and the European Union stumbled to the edge of the precipice, but at the last minute the skills of Sir Leon Brittan and the statesmanship of Bill Clinton averted disaster. It is they who won the "beautiful victory" which France, one of the most narrow-minded protectors of narrow interests, is today falsely congratulating itself upon.

CARNIVAL OF REACTION

Fresh words fall on old Irish ground

To deny the significance of yesterday's joint declaration on the future of Ireland would be churlish and premature. John Major and Albert Reynolds deserve congratulation for labouring through the treacherous straits of Anglo-Irish politics to reach this statement of principle. Though not in itself a peace treaty, it may yet be the basis for one.

Its eventual success, however, is unusually dependent upon factors outside its signatories' control. Mr Major's achievement has been one of patience. During discreet bilateral talks, he has persuaded many sceptics of his good intentions. His resilience during the row over the government's talks with Sinn Fein was impressive. From the Republic, he has wrung the concession that reunification cannot be contemplated without the consent of the majority in Ulster. Mr Reynolds, likewise, has recognised that Articles 2 and 3 of the constitution, which assert the Republic's claim to the North, will have to be reviewed as part of an overall settlement. Though this has long been the policy of the Fianna Fáil-Labour coalition, its restatement in this lapidary document should be some reassurance to nervous Loyalists in the North.

Nonetheless, progress should not be confused with resolution. Yesterday's declaration was the pinnacle of a close diplomatic relationship which has developed between Dublin and London in the past ten years. Peace broke out between the British and Irish governments long ago: this latest result of that peace is not in itself a guarantee that amity will break out between the other warring parties. Like a plume of smoke, the declaration will waft into nothingness unless the atmosphere and conditions are precisely right.

Much attention was paid yesterday to the detail of the statement; but the assumptions which underpin it are more revealing — and more open to question. In its third clause, for example, the statement assumes that "the development of Europe" will transform the Irish conflict; the assumption is that the melting of national boundaries is somehow predetermined. Equally, the declaration is pervaded by the confidence of many in Whitehall, the police and the security forces that the IRA is gravely weakened and would find it very hard to relaunch its campaign after a ceasefire.

For now, this confidence must be taken on trust. Yet the murder of two policemen in Co Tyrone over the weekend and Tuesday's bomb in Woking suggests, at the very least, that some of the IRA's units remain both hostile and effective. Above all, Mr Major and Mr Reynolds seem to presume that the support of James Molyneaux, the Ulster Unionist leader, will be enough to calm the fears of the Protestant majority in the North. Yet there is disquiet even within the ranks of Mr Molyneaux's own party about the peace process.

In its approach to the Union, the crucial fourth clause of yesterday's declaration employs the most detached language ever used by a Conservative government about the North. The announcement that the political representatives of the IRA would be welcome at the peace table after only 12 weeks will appal the vast majority of Unionists — and many others besides. In his understandable enthusiasm to end the violence, Mr Major has unilaterally dispensed with the quarantine principle, which has long been a precondition of Protestant support for talks. It remains to be seen whether he and Mr Molyneaux can control the anger which this will surely provoke.

None of these prospective difficulties needs be decisive if Mr Major and Mr Reynolds have calculated correctly. Their own confidence in this joint endeavour itself carries force. But the response of the Irish people to political change has always been notoriously unpredictable, aptly described by James Connolly as the "carnival of reaction". It is to the judgment of this hectic carnival that the declaration must now be submitted.

SOUNDS OF RETREAT

Will some late good sense save the Arts Council?

The Arts Council's decision on the London orchestras, announced yesterday after some of the most disagreeable months in British musical history, is a predictable piece of bureaucratic fudge. The orchestras can now survive; and for that mercy, at least, most music-lovers will be grateful. But the details of the settlement, and the devious machinations by which it was reached, reflect little credit on those entrusted with disbursing public money.

No orchestra has come out of this protracted beauty contest better funded than it went in. The London Philharmonic has lost the extra funding it received directly from the Arts Council for being the South Bank's resident orchestra. The Philharmonia, misled by rumours into believing itself to be the "winner" of Sir Leonard Hoffmann's assessment, has been pegged back to its current funding. And for the Royal Philharmonic the waiting is not even over: the Arts Council is still "urgently" considering its grant for next year.

So what has been gained from this tarnished exercise? Nothing, except insight into the way that crass misjudgment can grow into official policy if it is not measured against logic and reality. The Arts Council tried to mislead music-lovers into believing that, with a little tweaking here and there, a "super-orchestra" could be created in London. Perhaps council members even believed this nonsense, despite knowing that the Berlin Philharmonic's public subsidy is four times as large as all four London orchestras put together.

In pursuit of this grail, they were willing to sacrifice the proven virtues of London musical life over many decades: an admirable variety of choice for the public, fiercely competitive standards, glorious versatility, excellent value for money. Yet at the same time, the council was peddling a different agenda to others whose support it needed. This was that much of the money currently going to London orchestras, far from being directed towards a "super-orchestra", would be diverted to regional and educational projects. On this basis it received support from music panel members who have since resigned in protest.

Satisfying many competing claims for the same funds is not easy. But the Arts Council should be straightforward about its priorities. It cannot appear to promise the same money twice. The lack of openness about its objectives — and its subsequent refusal to defend them in public — is the most reprehensible aspect of this business. At least several hundred London musicians will have a happier Christmas because the Arts Council has finally "seen sense". The public is entitled to demand why it took so long.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Violence and votes in ex-Yugoslavia

From Professor Adrian Hastings

Sir, The shelling of Sarajevo by Serb heavy artillery had almost come to a halt. Its renewal over the last two weeks, with mounting daily casualties in Sarajevo (report, December 14), must be a matter of the gravest concern. Yet it has gone almost unnoticed by the international mediators and the West in general.

On May 6 the UN Security Council passed resolution 824 declaring Sarajevo and other threatened cities "safe areas". This was followed up by resolution 836 on June 4 declaring the UN's intention to ensure full respect of the areas in question.

Unfortunately these resolutions had ignominiously little effect until on August 9 Nato approved plans for air strikes if the Serbs did not lift the siege of Sarajevo.

An Unprofor spokesman at once infamously declared that there was now no siege; nevertheless the Nato threat was taken seriously and the shelling almost ceased even if, in other ways, the strangulation of Sarajevo continued.

Having waited a while, the Serbs are now clearly trying it on to see if there will be any international or Nato reaction. Hitherto there has been none. Have the Security Council and Nato entirely forgotten their resolutions of the summer?

Dr David Owen pointed out last month how the 20 Serb fixed-wing aircraft were grounded within 24 hours in October 1992, when it became clear that President Bush would act against them if they were not. The Nato threat has been respected in so far as it appeared a credible one.

If Unprofor and Nato have now made it clear that it will not be enforced, then they are as responsible as General Mladic for every civilian killed in Sarajevo.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN HASTINGS,
University of Leeds,
Department of Theology and Religious Studies,
Leeds LS2 9JT.
December 14.

From Miss Nora Beloff

Sir, The whole basis of our anti-Serb policy and consequent sanctions collapses against the evidence reported in *The Times* today of the victory in the Krajina elections of Milan Babic and his followers. These were the original instigators of resistance against the forcible incorporation of the Serb minority into Tudjman's Croatia.

Those of us who followed Yugoslav affairs at the time will remember Babic's visit to the House of Commons in 1990 and his terrifying obsession with the massacre of the Serbs in this region by the Croat Ustashas during the Second World War.

He was manifestly convinced that Tudjman's projected independent state of Croatia was a continuation of the wartime Nazi-type regime. Babic was as irrationally hostile to the Croats as Tudjman to the Serbs. But the authenticity of his feeling is undeniable and Milosevic, in order to improve Serbia's international image, managed later to have him replaced by a more docile team.

The whole incident was reliably reported by the late Michael Lees, wartime British liaison officer with the Chetniks, who went to Krajina himself in March 1991 to see. He shared the Krajina view that Milosevic was "selling out" on them and his own account exposes the wild absurdity of treating Serbian resistance in Croatia (and later in Bosnia) as no more than the viciousness of Milosevic's "puppets".

In assessing the nature of the war in ex-Yugoslavia we should surely follow today's masterly analysis by Simon Jenkins of the Ulster fudge: "*Civil conflicts are about politics. Violence is merely their symptom*" (my italics). The refusal of the Serb minority to submit to forcible incorporation into Tudjman's "Croatia for the Croats" was political. Unfortunately, violence was the only way it could be implemented.

Yours etc,
NORA BELOFF,
11 Belsize Road, NW6.
December 15.

Maximising profit from state lottery

From Lord Young of Graffham

Sir, In your leading article on our bid for the licence to operate the national lottery ("Anyone else for lotto?", December 14) you stress the need to maximise the profits in order to make the contributions to charity worthwhile. You rightly say that "efficiency is the key".

I would not like anyone to entertain, however, the thought that, because Richard Branson and I, the two founder trustees, intend that the profits should go to good causes, there is any danger of amateurism about our bid. With respect, the business achievements of those involved are in themselves adequate answer to that charge.

With our leading technical partner, IBM, we intend to prove that we can maximise profits and thus the return for charity. We believe this could add hundreds of millions of pounds to those that would be produced if any of our rivals won and were allowed to pocket the profits.

We also believe that the lottery will achieve greater popularity if, like almost every other lottery in the world, it is seen to be run entirely for the benefit of the community. Greater popularity will lead to greater income.

Rival consortia may believe they can dismiss our bid as well-intentioned but unprofessional. We believe that the director general of Oflot, the regulatory body, when confronted with the evidence early next year, will take a different view.

Yours,
YOUNG
(Trustee, Lottery Foundation),
House of Lords.
December 14.

From Mr Iain J. McConnell

Sir, As a past chairman of many fund-raising committees which have raised thousands of pounds for charities and sport over the years, I am enthused by the news that Richard Branson has offered to organise the national lottery at no charge.

I believe that the lottery should be run to provide maximum money for good causes rather than line the pockets of the company selected to operate the event, and I am confident that Mr Branson's team would produce an efficient lottery.

If he is not selected, I trust that it will be organised by another group offering the same non-profit-making services.

Yours sincerely,
IAIN J. McCONNELL,
Speedybank House,
Gifford, East Lothian.
December 14.

Commercial TV bids

From Sir Denis Forman

Sir, I would like to take issue with Andrew Pierce and Bill Frost who, in their report on Granada's bid for LWT ("North-South fight for jewel in ITV crown", December 7), said that Mr Gerry Robinson "has pledged that Granada will no longer make classics such as *The Jewel in the Crown*". Mr Robinson has pledged no such thing. He has said that in present economic circumstances it is not possible to make productions on this scale.

As the executive producer of *The Jewel in the Crown* and chairman of Granada Television from 1974 to 1987, I would take exactly the same view. *Jewel* was financed by money from an American oil company. This source of finance has dried up. It is no longer possible to support a production on this scale from local resources.

That is one reason why the amalgamation of television companies into larger units may be helpful in finding new and better sources of finance.

Yours sincerely,
DENIS FORMAN,
Granada Group plc,
36 Golden Square, W1.

From Sir Brian Young

Sir, Professor Wedell (letter, December 7) is right. The purpose of independent television is to connect with people in their homes and contribute in various ways to their lives: it is depressing to see takeovers replace programme plans as the focus of interest.

The viewer is best served if there are clear obligations for output and scheduling on all who pervade our airwaves, and if the ITC, as well as the BBC, has the means to see that these obligations are fully met.

There was no need for the coming of satellite and cable to result in much more of television's earnings being taken from the system by government and investors, instead of being spent for the benefit of viewers. I believe that even politicians, who rarely watch television, are aware that their mercantile approach and false ideas about competition now risk harming what can be a uniquely distinguished service, available to everyone at modest cost.

Programmes designed to please and stimulate British audiences have also in the past been good exports; and it is wrong to assume that larger groupings, with an eye on the international market, are needed to establish our television productions on the world stage.

May we hope that the Department of National Heritage will now live up to its name and introduce, together with the BBC's new charter, a better Broadcasting Act?

Yours,
BRIAN YOUNG
(Director General, Independent Broadcasting Authority, 1970-82),
Hill End, Woodhill Avenue,
Gerrards Cross,
Buckinghamshire.

From Mr Paul Corley

Sir, Mr David Holroyd's letter, headed "Urban bias?" (December 7), suffered from two factual errors with regard to Carlton Television's regional commitment.

First, Central Television offers not two but three distinct regional programme services. This is made possible by the existence of three transmitters in the region. In contrast, the 11 million inhabitants of Carlton's transmission region are served by only one transmitter. This engineering constraint dictates provision of a single regional programme service.

Second, whatever Mr Holroyd's subjective opinion of our programmes, this year we will have transmitted some nine hours per week of regional programmes — significantly more than did our predecessors.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL CORLEY
(Controller, Regional Programming),
Carlton Television,
101 St Martin's Lane, WC2.
December 10.

Sunday trading

From Mr Gordon Rae

Sir, As a voluntary organisation we have become aware in the past year of a disturbing side effect of Sunday opening (letters, December 8). As traditional free hours are drawn into a seven-day working week the time left for voluntary work is slowly being strangled.

The annual survey by the Charities Aid Foundation shows that the number of people volunteering in the UK has dropped to its lowest level in five years with an average time volunteered per month of 40 minutes per person.

As a charity whose sole concern is for the elderly living alone, we fear that a vulnerable sector of society may yet find themselves paradoxically more isolated and with even less choice in the future — while the majority have more.

Yours sincerely,
GORDON RAE
(Director), Contact,
15 Henrietta Street,
Covent Garden, WC2.
December 13.

From the Director of the National Association of Master Bakers

Sir, In your editorial, "Set Sunday free" (December 8), you said small shops were not threatened by Sunday trading. You also said that it would make no difference to the one third of the population who want to keep their Sundays special. What nonsense! I can put you in touch with any number of bakers who have seen turnover fall by up to 20 per cent as a direct consequence of the supermarkets' decision to trade on Sundays. I can also put you in touch with former bakers driven out of business by the supermarkets.

The closure of small food shops severely inconveniences many people who like — or have — to use them. Many older people, for example, shop locally not only from necessity but also for the social contact.

Why should these customers be disadvantaged by the closure of small shops just so that five million people (less than 10 per cent of our population) can go to a supermarket on a Sunday?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HARBOURNE,
Director,
The National Association of Master Bakers,
21 Baldock Street,
Ware, Hertfordshire.
December 10.

From Mr Peter Butler

Sir, What now is to become of my favourite definition in *The Concise Oxford Dictionary*: "Mondayish *a.* (Of clergy) indisposed as result of Sunday work; (of others) slack as result of Sunday holiday"?

Yours faithfully,
PETER BUTLER,
5 Wentworth Green,
Norwich, Norfolk.
December 9.

Chittagong killings

From the Director General of Survival International

Sir, We are horrified at the killing of over 100 Jumma villagers which took place on November 17 and ensuing violence which left over 500 people injured in Naniachar in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

We are dismayed that such atrocities are carried out against the Jumma peoples in this area, particularly when the government of Bangladesh is supposedly conducting talks to resolve the situation.

That such a massacre has occurred now seriously undermines and calls into question the government's desire to seek a political solution to uphold the fundamental rights of the Jumma peoples to their lands and culture.

We strongly urge the Bangladeshi government to set up an independent enquiry and for its findings to be made public, to allow a team of international human rights non-governmental organisations to visit the area, to withdraw all military personnel from the area and to end the systematic violence and atrocities against the Jummas.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN CORRY,
Director General,
Survival International
310 Edgware Road, W2.
December 2.

With the postal delays that often occur at this time of year, it is useful, where possible, for letters that are intended for publication to be faxed to 071-782 5046. Please give contact telephone numbers.

Will's lost years

From Mr P. F. C. Geake

Sir, How wonderful for A. L. Rowse to enter his 90th year controversially ("Found: Will's lost years", December 3; letter, December 9). However, in response to the question he raises of the Bard's whereabouts in the 1590s, it is surely well established that he was performing at that time with the Burbages at The Theatre and at the nearby Curtain, both in Shoreditch.

He had been doing so since the mid-1580s, when he was befriended by James Burbage, owner of the first royal patent, who built The Theatre and led The Lord Chamberlain's Men in productions there from 1577.

Next year will see the beginning of the dig by a Museum of London archaeology unit on the suggested site of The Theatre, at the junction of Curtain Road and New Inn Yard in Shoreditch. Let us hope that they will be able to shed a little light on the missing years.

Yours sincerely,
P. GEAKE (Chairman),
The Shakespeare in Shoreditch Society,
10c French Place, Shoreditch, E1.

From Mr M. R. Sharman

Sir, A. L. Rowse's reasoning is persuasive; but before we accept that Shakespeare's lost years were spent in the printing trade in London, perhaps we should reconsider Duff Cooper's proposition, in *Sergeant Shakespeare*, that they were spent in military service in the Low Countries.

Yours faithfully,
M. R. SHARMAN,
7 Taylor Avenue, Kew, Surrey.

Battle of words

From Lieutenant Colonel E. E. Hunt

Sir, You not infrequently give space to Anglophobic letters from Scots (usually domiciled in southern Britain) who find themselves slighted by references to "England" and the "English". May one therefore murmur gently at the Word-Watching solutions on December 6?

There is a reference to the capacity of the "English soldier to get a name wrong", in referring to Blindheim as Blenheim. Philip Howard's service in a Scottish regiment surely alerted him to the number of Scottish regiments that have Blenheim as a battle honour.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC HUNT,
Nags Head Farmhouse, Mappowder,
Sturminster Newton, Dorset.

Unfair to Guildford?

From Mr T. M. S. Young

Sir, The article by Margot Norman, "The real tragedy behind the Liberty wife" (December 13), which begins with the words "I hate Guildford, and always have", takes an unhappy tale of adultery and suicide, tells it with the sort of detail which one would expect from a tabloid and concludes that it is possible to condemn the entire population of a town of 60,000 on the basis of one tragedy involving two families.

Is it any more acceptable than writing a lurid account of the James Bulger killing and beginning the article "I hate Liverpool, and always have"?

Yours faithfully,
TIM YOUNG
(Headmaster),
The Royal Grammar School,
High Street, Guildford, Surrey.

Jump jets for China

From Lord Callaghan of Cardiff

Sir, Sir Hal Miller is incorrect in writing (letter, December 14) that a projected sale of Harrier jump jets to China in 1978 was a covert operation.

The Chinese interest was the plane's vertical take-off capacity, which would have allowed it to be stationed near the Chinese/Soviet border where there were few conventional airfields.

So far from the discussions being covert they were known at least to the American, Soviet, French and German governments. I personally discussed the project with President Jimmy Carter, Giscard d'Estaing and Chancellor Schmidt, and had correspondence with Mr Brezhnev. Our allies had no objections but the Russians didn't like it. In the end the Chinese did not go ahead.

By the way, I wish our present-day negotiations with China would be handled by the Government in a less maladroit and shortsighted manner.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES CALLAGHAN
(President),
University College of Swansea,
Singleton Park, Swansea SA2 8PP.
December 15.

Cuckoo in Albertopolis

From Mr Brian D. Adcock

Sir, We salute, of course, the sentiments of the director of the Victorian Society (letter, December 14). But *University* College London a part of Albertopolis? No, Sir; absolutely not. His Royal Highness would turn on his memorial.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN ADCOCK
(*Imperial* College, 1958-66),
94 Deacon Road, Kingston, Surrey.

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

December 15: Mr Patrick Nixon was received in audience by The Queen upon his appointment as British High Commissioner to the Republic of Zambia.

Mrs Nixon was also received by Her Majesty.

His Excellency Mr Austin Sealy was received in audience by The Queen upon his appointment as High Commissioner for Barbados in London.

General Colin Powell, United States Army, was received by Her Majesty when The Queen invested him with the Insignia of an Honorary Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath.

Mrs Powell was also received by Her Majesty.

The Queen, Patron, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, this evening attended a Reception at the Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7, to mark the Ninetieth Anniversary of the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society and was received by the Chairman (Mr David Jones).

The Duchess of Grafton, Mr Robin Janvrin and Lieutenant Colonel Blair Stewart-Wilson were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee, today attended Receptions at St James's Palace for Young People who have reached the Gold Standard in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

His Royal Highness, Patron, British Trust for Ornithology, this afternoon attended a Luncheon to launch "The New Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland" at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London SW1.

The Lord Burton, Wing Commander Christopher Moran RAF and Major Charles Richards were in attendance.

December 15: The Princess Royal, President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, this morning attended the launch of Sutton Carers Centre, the Civic Offices, St Nicholas Way, Sutton, Surrey.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, the Association of Combined Youth Clubs, this afternoon attended a Charity Christmas Luncheon at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London W1.

The Princess Royal, Patron, the British Nutrition Foundation, later attended a Seminar on Nutrition in Developing Countries at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1.

The Hon Mrs Legge-Bourke was in attendance.

December 15: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, this morning attended a Conference on Study Support Centres at the Sarah Bonnell School, Deanery Road, Stratford, London E15.

His Royal Highness afterwards opened the new technology village at the school.

Mr Stephen Lamport was in attendance.

The Prince of Wales, Chairman of Trustees, this afternoon presented diplomas to Foundation Course students of The Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness, Patron, Macmillan Nurse Appeal, this evening attended a Carol Concert at the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, London SW1. Miss Belinda Harley was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE RICHMOND PARK

December 15: Princess Alexandra, Patron of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, this evening met members of the Pearl Anniversary Committee at the Institute of Directors, Pall Mall, London SW1.

Her Royal Highness, President, and the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy later attended the Christmas Party of the Friends of the V & A at the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, London SW7.

Rear Admiral Sir John Garnier was in attendance.

Plane maker shows how training put it back on flight path

BY IAN MURRAY

NORTHERN Ireland's potential to lead a British economic revival was recognised yesterday when a special prize, sponsored by *The Times*, was won by Short Brothers in Belfast. The company, one of 99 winners in the 1993 National Training Awards, received the award for the way in which it had beaten international competition.

The company's story was inspirational. Peter Stothard, editor of *The Times*, said in presenting the award to Sam Campbell, Short's human resources manager. Scarcely two years ago the company, the world's oldest aircraft manufacturer, was in danger of losing a vital contract because of persistently late deliveries. After the introduction of a comprehensive training programme, aimed at making every workman competent in at least five tasks, absenteeism shrank from 19 per cent to 3 per cent and there had been no slippage on deliveries since June 1991.

David Hunt, the Employment Secretary, said at the prizegiving in central London that examples like that of Short Brothers proved that the Government's commitment to training courses was real and that Britain was retraining to take on the world.

"With the Gatt negotiations at last drawing to an end, I hope the era of protectionism is now well and truly over," he said. "There will be more trading, more exports, more jobs and lower prices for the consumer. But we can only compete if we invest in people. Training gives us the opportunities to meet the challenge of the outside world."

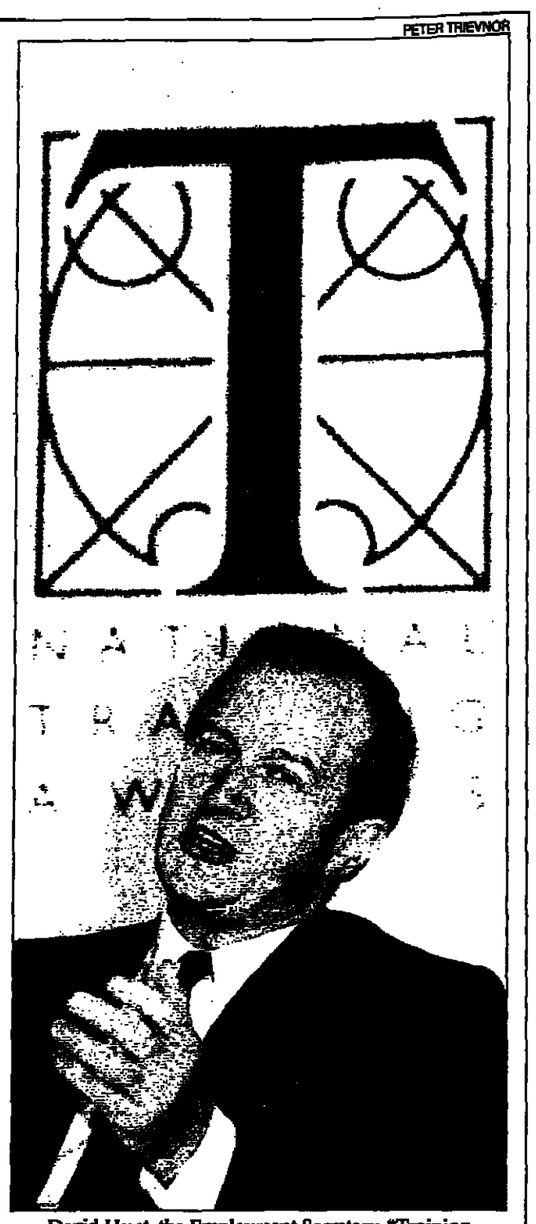
Among the 84 companies who won awards were well-known names including Boots, Tesco, British Steel, BBC television and Black and Decker. The Hotel and Catering Training Company, which trains Afro-Asians near Moss Side, Manchester, won a special award for work with ethnic groups. Kids Unlimited, which provides nurseries for companies, won an extra honour for its work in helping to train women.

Small, long-established family firms were also represented, including a Cleveland stationer whose managing director, Peter Sotheran, admitted frankly that his family had never spoken to a single member of staff for more than a hundred years. Now that they had been trained to share responsibilities and ideas, profits earned by each employee had doubled.



Sam Campbell: received award from The Times

PETER TRIEVNOR



David Hunt, the Employment Secretary: "Training gives us the opportunities to challenge the world"

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.A. Boyle and Miss E.H. Marshall
The engagement is announced between Rupert Alexander, younger son of Captain Michael and Lady Nell Boyle, of Ashe, Steventon, Hampshire, and Emma Helen, daughter of Colonel Rennie Marshall, of Blissford, Hampshire, and Mrs Helga Macmillan Algie, of Rousdon, Devon.

Dr S.J. Burke and Dr S.A. Osborne
The engagement is announced between Stephen, elder son of Mr and Mrs D.J. Burke, of Dublin, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs F.A. Osborne, of St Ippolyts, Hertfordshire.

Mr R.J. Daly and Miss S.A. Porritt
The engagement is announced between Ronan Joseph, elder son of Mr and Mrs Joseph Daly, of Tonragee, Achill, County Mayo, Eire, and Sally Anne, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Trevor Porritt, of Westcott, Dorking, Surrey.

Mr J.C.L. Elkan and Miss J.C. Jeffryes
The engagement is announced between Julian, elder son of Mrs Jennifer Elkan, of Deddington, Oxford, and Mr David Elkan, of Majorca, and Joanna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Jeffryes, of Paddock Wood, Kent.

Mr P.R.W. Gordon and Miss J.R. Barham
The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr and Mrs Stephen Gordon, of Goodworth Clatford, Hampshire, and Joanna Rachael, younger daughter of Mr Nicholas Barham, of Eastbourne, Sussex, and Mrs Rachael Hill, of Hodsoll Street, Kent.

Mr J.R.M. Henson and Dr S.L.M. Devereux
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs Donald Henson, of Drymen, Stirlingshire, and Sonia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Devereux, of Chertsey, Surrey.

Mr N.D. Hoare and Dr L.M. Moroney
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, elder son of the late Rev David Hoare and of Lady Lockhart-Mummery, of Winchester, Hampshire, and Lee, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs C.A. Moroney, of Cambridge, New Zealand.

Mr M.J.K. Hickman and Miss A.F. Hudson
The engagement is announced between Matthew, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Hickman, of Marlborough, Wiltshire, and Andrea, daughter of the late Mr D.J.P. Hudson and of Señora Adriana Kimber, of Santiago, Chile.

Mr P.R. Lees and Miss C.J. Sclater
The engagement is announced between Peter, elder son of Lieutenant Commander and Mrs Richard Lees, of Bishop's Waltham, Hampshire, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Sclater, of Pulborough, Sussex.

Mr A.R. Macdonald-Buchanan and Mrs S.A. Davico di Quittengo
The engagement is announced between Alastair, only son of Captain John Macdonald-Buchanan, of Cottesbrooke, Northamptonshire, and the late Lady Rose Bardsley, and Sheran, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Huw Thomas, of Kensington, London.

Mr J.E. Oppenheimer and Miss J.J. Ward
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Oppenheimer, of White Waltham, Berkshire, and Little Brenthurst, Johannesburg, and Jennifer, daughter of Mr and Mrs Rodman Ward, of Wilmington, USA.

Mr J.M.A. Pryke and Miss C.M. Eccles
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, elder son of Mr and Mrs Tim Pryke, of Ockley, Surrey, and Caroline, only daughter of Colonel Richard Eccles, retd, and Mrs Eccles, of Andover, Hampshire.

Mr N.S. Rumsey and Miss J. Griffiths
The engagement is announced between Nicholas Scott Rumsey, of Mayfair, London, and Jayne Griffiths, of Woodstock, Oxfordshire.

Mr C.D. Sheaf and Miss A.L.G. Clowes
The engagement is announced between Colin David, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael Sheaf, of Highgate, London, and Anne Louise Garfit, daughter of the late Mr Edward Clowes and of Mrs Edward Clowes, of Walton-on-the-Hill, Surrey.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Catherine of Aragon, first wife of King Henry VIII, Alcalá de Henares, Spain, 1485; John Selden, lawyer and historian, Worthing, 1584; George Whitefield, evangelist, Gloucester, 1714; Gebhard von Blücher, field marshal, Rostock, Germany, 1742; Ludwig van Beethoven, composer, Bonn, 1770; Jane Austen, novelist, Steventon Rectory, Hampshire, 1775; Mary Russell Mitford, essayist and dramatist, Alresford, Hampshire, 1787; Wassily Kandinsky, abstract painter, Moscow, 1866; Frederick Pollard, historian, Ryde, 1869; Anton Denikin, commander of the anti-Bolshevik forces in the Russian civil war 1918-20, near Warsaw, 1872; Zoltán Kodály, composer, Kecskemet, Hungary, 1882; Sir John (Jack) Hobbs, cricketer, Cambridge, 1882; King Alexander I of Yugoslavia, reigned 1929-34, Cetinje, 1888; Sir Noel Coward, playwright and composer, London, 1899; Margaret Mead, anthropologist, Philadelphia, 1901.

DEATHS: Sir William Petty, political economist, London, 1687; Thomas Pennant, naturalist, Downing, Flintshire, 1798; David Hamilton, architect, Glasgow, 1843; Richard Bright, physician, London, 1858; Wilhelm Grimm, collector of folk tales, Berlin, 1859; Charles Camille Saint-Saëns, composer, Algiers, 1921; Glenn Miller, dance band leader, reported missing in flight to France, 1944; William Somerset Maugham, novelist and playwright, Nice, 1954.

School news

Tettenhall College, Wolverhampton

Dr Peter Bodkin to be Headmaster from April 1994, following the retirement of Mr John Dale. Dr Bodkin is at present Senior Housemaster at Bradfield College.

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy and Royal Marines

CAPTAIN: A E Slater - Nelson as Captain 21.4.94; P D Stone - MOD London 6.5.94; M G Wood - Staff of FO Portsmouth 14.1.94; P J A Wyatt - MOD London 18.2.94.
ACTING CAPTAIN: P M Cheesman - MOD London 9.6.94.
PRINCIPAL NURSING OFFICER: J Massey - Staff of 2SL/CINCNAVHOME 1.4.94.
LIEUTENANT COLONEL: A M Mason - RM Poole 17.12.93.
COMMANDER: D R Charlton - Staff of FOSM 8.7.94; J G Connolly - Centurion 1.1.94; D C Gregan - Hecla in Cmd 3.5.94; P Hobson - Devonport 27.5.94; C W Waite - MOD London 29.4.94.
CAPTAIN: M Stanhope - MOD London 25.3.94; R M Williams - Dryad MTS 25.3.94.
LIEUTENANT COLONEL: A R Pillar - 42 CDO in Cmd 31.5.94.
COMMANDER: J Long - MOD Portland 25.2.94; R A Mark - MOD London 17.6.94; R P Steele - Dryad MTS 4.7.94; H R Whitaker - Staff of 2SL/CINCNAVHOME 3.6.94.
Retirements
COMMANDER: R K Easson - 26.2.94; W B Kirby - 24.2.94; J J Sadler - 28.2.94.

Royal Air Force

AIR VICE-MARSHAL: D J Saunders - To be Air Officer Eng & Supply at HQ STC 17.12.93 in succession to P D Clark.
AIR COMMODORE: B E A Pegnall - To MOD 10.12.93.
GROUP CAPTAIN: P B M Richards - To SAP Riyadh 8.12.93; S J Colwill - To MOD 10.12.93; M T Phillips to Staff C Bracknell 10.12.93; R D Iredale - To MOD Cossec 10.12.93; J A King - To RAF Benson 10.12.93; O B Symes - To RAF Lyneham 10.12.93; N M Macleod - To MOD 10.12.93; M J Gardiner - To HQ 38 GP 13.12.93; G J Woodley - To MOD 13.12.93.
WING COMMANDER: R D Fry - to SC of CAT Aldershot 6.12.93; L R E Bessant - To MOD 13.12.93; G M Dean - To Staff C Bracknell 13.12.93; J K Wheeler - To RAF Waddington 13.12.93; K G Brackstone - To MOD AFD 13.12.93; L Fox - To Staff C Bracknell 13.12.93; M R Waring - To Staff C Bracknell 13.12.93; M A C Cockbook - To RAF Aldergrove 14.12.93; P J Heard - To SM(WPNS) 15(RAF) 13.12.93; D A Knight - To MOD ACDS(CON) 13.12.93; K Mackenzie - To MOD(PE)ASD A&AEE 13.12.93; S P Murphy - To CSDE Swanton Morley 13.12.93; R Watson - To RAF St Athan 13.12.93.

Birthdays today

Professor Sir Harold Bailey, Sanskritist, 94; Mr J.M. Blackburn, chief executive, Halifax Building Society, 52; Mr N.C. Blamey, artist, 79; Sir Michael Carlisle, former chairman, Trent Regional Health Authority, 64; Mr Arthur C. Clarke, science writer, 76; Judge Myrella Cohen, QC, 66; Professor Bernard Crick, author, 64; the Hon Peter Dickinson, author, 66; Mr Joel Garner, cricketer, 41; Mr R.N. Gunn, former chairman, The Boots Company, 68; Miss Heather Hallett, QC, 44; Sir Jasper Hollom, former deputy governor, Bank of England, 76; Mr John Kirwan, rugby player, 29; Lord Margadale, 87; Lord Mottistone, 73; Mr Trevor Pinnock, harpsichordist and conductor, 47; Sir Victor Pritchett, CH, author and critic, 93; Lieutenant-General Sir David Scott-Barrett, 71; Mrs Jacqueline Thwaites, principal, Inchbald School of Design, 62; Miss Liv Ullmann, actress, 55; Mr W.H.P. Whatley, trades unionist, 71; Lieutenant-General Sir Roger Wheeler, 52.

Luncheon

Mr Frank S. Law

On Wednesday, December 15, Mr Frank S. Law, gave a luncheon at Boodle's. The guests were:

His Excellency Mr Khalil Haddaoui, Lord Owen, Mr Kenneth Baker, Mr H. Blandford, Mr Richard Bullock, Mr Herve de Carmoy, Lord Chalfont, Mr G C B Dodds, Sir Norman Fowler, Mr Michael Frye, Mr John Gordon, Mr David Gordon Shute, Mr Peter Hart, Mr David Howell, Mr Christopher Law, Mr Watcyn Lewis, Sir Peter Petrie, Dr John Rae, Sir John Richards, Mr Nicholas Scott, Mr Peter Scott, Lord Sieff, Mr David Sieff, Sir Crispin Tickell, Baron R Vaes and Mr Nicolas Vigne.

Securities Institute

Securities Institute Diploma 1992-93 Prize Winners

The Securities Institute Award for Excellence: James Rudd, Kleinwort Benson.
The London Stock Exchange Award for Special Achievement: John McIvor, Credit Lyonnais Laing.
The ISMA Centre for Education and Research Bond and Fixed Interest Markets Award: Timothy Last, Bell Lawrie White.
The IFMA Fund Management Award: Nigel Foster.
The Investors Chronicle Interpretation of Financial Statements Award: Stephen Kirk, Nikko Europe; Justin Lawson, James Capel.
The APCIMS Private Client Investment Advice and Management Award: Audra Cowgill, Redmayne Bentley; Bertrand Barlow, City Financial Partners.
The LIFFE Financial Futures and Options Award: Mark Cheetham, Kleinwort Benson.
The ETL Financial Institutional Investment Advice Award: Paul Hecker, IMRO.
The Reuters Investment Analysis Award: Trevor Green, Capel-Cure Myers.
The SFA Regulation and Compliance Award: Joanne May, Daiwa Europe; James Rudd, Kleinwort Benson.
The BMBA Corporate Finance Award: Derek Crowhurst.

Summer 1992 Diploma Winners: M J Ainscough (Charterhouse Tilney); A F H Appleton (Barclays de Zoete Wedd); R D Beggs (Cazenove); T J Black; D S Brown (Bell Lawrie White); A P Burgess; D J P Cane (Gerrard Vivian Gray); D R M Carnell (BWD Rensburg); S M Clark (National Power); P J Clementson (Collieer (Lorne House Trust); D E Connor (Barclays de Zoete Wedd); R E Constable (Barclays de Zoete Wedd); D A Curmi (James Capel); N W Dennis (NCL Investments); S Duff (C H Management); M B Durdy (Hoare Govett); C J Eason; D J Elliott (James Capel); G A J Englefield; L A Fry; I T Gidlow; C G P Hall (Cazenove); N M Harriss; J J Hollycock; R F R Joliffe (Cazenove); A G G Jones; S Kadivari (Capel-Cure Myers Capital Management); M Larbalestier (Quilter Goodison); J J Lawson (James Capel); R S Mackenzie; A C Marshall; S M Martin (Kleinwort Benson); K Mathara (London Stock Exchange); M A McGrade (Greig Middleton); J R McIvor (Credit Lyonnais Laing); I H D McNeil (London Stock Exchange); C J Milner Cox; P Foster Braithwaite; I Moghe; M P Moshal; E H Naumann (Smith & Williamson Securities); C A Oldfield (Barclays de Zoete Wedd Investment Management); A J Ord (Cazenove); P J Osborn (Capel-Cure Myers Capital Management); R Patel (London Stock Exchange); P S Pauzey (Allied Provincial Securities); J D Playle (Allied Provincial Securities); L D Prentice; P Reay (Albert E Sharp); J C K Redman (Allied Provincial Securities); K P Sarai; I R Satterthwaite (Allied Provincial Securities); M B Satterthwaite; M S Scrimgeour; G N Seaborn (BWD Rensburg); N B J Skinning (Quilter Goodison Channel Islands); C L Spruyt (Seymour Pierce Butterfield); D J Sutherland (Bell Lawrie White); E D C Tew; N S L Titus (Cazenove); J A W Truscott; M E Weiss (Cazenove).

Winter 1992 Diploma Winners: R B H Armes (Smith & Williamson Securities); S D Bailey (Wise Speke); S E H Barker (Cazenove); J Barrett (Newton Investment Management); S P Barron (Greig Middleton); P Best (Scottish Equitable Life Assurance Society); J S Bills (Barclays de Zoete Wedd); K R Bosanquet; S R Bradshaw; S A Brann (Lucas Pensions Investment Management); T Brennan (Harlow Butler Broking Services); D J Bretherton (James Brearley & Sons); L Brock (Capel-Cure Myers Capital Management); D I Brookes (Charterhouse Tilney); N H Bryan (James Capel); R A Cant (Charterhouse Tilney); J R A Chamberlain (Cazenove); N Child; P D Clark; C D Clayhills-Henderson (Torrie & Co); P Collins; D L Cripps (Wolverhampton Borough Council); J C Cripps (James Capel Unit Trust Management); J H Dallas (Christows); W H Davies (Albert E Sharp); R J Day (Cazenove); N I Debenham; J H B Diamond (James Capel); D Direkoglou (Credito Italiano International); A L Dunstan (Wise Speke); L Ellam (Sheppards); J F Elmy; S Everest (Gerrard Vivian Gray); C L M Fanshawe (Smith & Williamson Securities); C Feld (Barclays de Zoete Wedd); N Foster; J R Garbett (Beeson Gregory); J M W Giles; I D Harley (Torrie & Co); C J Harris (Bell Lawrie White); C S Harvey (Gerrard Vivian Gray); L P Heavey; A J Hess (Gerrard Vivian Gray); M P M Horn; M D Howson (Capel-Cure Myers Capital Management); S A Jackson, R A Jones (Barclays de Zoete Wedd); P J Kavanagh; J P Keogh (The London Stock Exchange); I K L Kotecha; M J Lally (Thesis); T P Last (Bell Lawrie White); P Lloyd (James Sharp); I MacDonald (Bell Lawrie White); A S McMurtrie (NCL Investments); A M Melrose (BWD Rensburg); K M Miles (Charterhouse Tilney); M C Milsom (James Capel); T Montford-Bebb (Sheppards); K O'Brien (James Capel); R D Old (Kenny Cooke Lumsden); M G Ozupeck; G J Parsley; N S Paterson (Allied Provincial Securities); D B Pegler (Cazenove); J C Quicke; S Quirk (Laing & Cruickshank Investment Management); S A Raftery (Albert E Sharp); F Reboundo (Barclays de Zoete Wedd); A J Rhodes (NCL Investments); S C Roberts (Cazenove); T Sahathevan (Securities & Futures Authority); D A H Scott (Charterhouse Tilney); R M Scrivener (Lloyds Investment Management); J E Slade (S G Warburg); E F Stirling; K Stoddart; E Tulley; D C Tomkins; S J Walker, S M Weston (Lloyds Investment Managers); S G T Wild (BWD Rensburg).

Summer 1993 Diploma Winners: D J Addison (S G Warburg); D C Ambrose (Nicholson Barber); I S Baker (Beeson Gregory); J W F Balstone; P D Billyard (Nikko Europe); S J Brennan (Kleinwort Benson); N A C Brill (Kleinwort Benson Investment Management); T E Brocklebank-Fowler (NatWest Stockbrokers); M Bryce-Smith (Cazenove); P R M D Buxton (Barclays de Zoete Wedd); M C Cheetham (Kleinwort Benson); A K C Cowgill (Redmayne-Bentley); P A J Crowe; S S Dattani; M Fernandes Pereila; W J S Douglass (Wise Speke); S Fallon; M A Findlay (Fleming Private Asset Management); A S Fonies (BWD Rensburg); A J Gadd (Knight Williams); A M Gammon (Thesis); P Giaurcoli (Cazenove); M S Greenhoff (Barclays de Zoete Wedd); S A Harris (GMO Woolley); J E Hawarth (Charterhouse Tilney); P S Hecker (IMRO); R C M Heggs (Fleming Private Asset Management); J E Hickman (Lehman Brothers International); J A Holmes (Wise Speke); S C Hook; B R L Iverson (Cazenove); M A L Jenkins; G A Jones (Charterhouse Tilney); N Kembey; W F Kendrick (Gerrard Vivian Gray); N A G Kidd (Capel-Cure Myers Capital Management); L C Lamble (Stirling Hendry); C R Lynas (Smith & Williamson Securities); J MacBain (Capital House Investment Management); N P R Marsh (Charterhouse Tilney); A D Milner (Allied Provincial Securities); C J P Morgan, Laurence Keen); D J O'Connor (Lehman Brothers); D J Pope; S Pratley (NatWest Stockbrokers); H T Price (Beeson Gregory); R Radbourne (Cazenove); H E Ritchie (Capel-Cure Myers Capital Management); N E Rizzi (Rea Brothers Investment Management); J L Robinson (Barclays de Zoete Wedd); M V Roskelly; V A Rowan (Gerrard Vivian Gray); C K A Sandford; A T J Searles; P Sedgwick (SG Warburg); W J Shaw (Shaw & Co); M W A Smithie (James Capel); B R Story (Kleinwort Benson); R T Tomaselli; D F Wallington (Laurence Keen); C S White (Charterhouse Tilney); M A Wigley; C S Williamson (Goodbody Stockbrokers).

Company names are those sponsoring the student for the final paper.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of York will attend a dinner at the Mansion House at 7.30 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic.

The Princess of Wales, as Patron of Centrepoint Soho, will attend the annual meeting and 25th anniversary year launch at the Institute of Contemporary Arts at 11.00.

The Princess Royal will attend the decommissioning ceremony of *HMS Jersey* at Rosyth, at 11.00.

Princess Margaret, as President of Invalid Children's Aid Nationwide, will attend Joy to the World at the Albert Hall at 7.15 in aid of Invalid Children's Aid Nationwide and the Royal Marsden Children's Unit, Sutton.

The Duchess of Kent will attend the Christmas celebrations in Westminster Cathedral at 7.00.

Memorial services

The Hon Mrs Margaret Lyttelton

A memorial service for the Hon Mrs Margaret Lyttelton was held yesterday at Chelsea Old Church. The Rev Peter Elvy officiated.

Mr Bernard Jackson read the lesson and Mr Thomas Blagg read from a description of Petra by Edward Lear. Mr Michael Rogers gave an address.

Professor William Mushin

A memorial service for Professor William Mushin was held yesterday at the West London Synagogue. Rabbi Elaina Rothman officiated. Mrs Mushin, widow, read the lesson.

Rabbi Rothman, Professor Alastair Spence, President of the Royal College of Anaesthetists, and Professor Michael Rosen gave addresses.

Dinner

Bahrain Society

The Annual Dinner of the Bahrain Society was held at the Royal Air Force Club, Piccadilly, on Tuesday night. The Guests were received by the President, the Ambassador of the State of Bahrain, and the Chairman, Sir Harold Walker, both of whom spoke, together with the Right Hon Sir John Cope, MP, and Mr Alistair Harrison who also spoke. Others present included:

Mrs Karim Al Shakar, Lady Walker, Lord Denman, Mr and Mrs E F Given, Mr Abdulla Kanoo, Mr Maurice Chandler, Mr John Phillip, Mrs Yvonne Richardson, the Right Rev Leonard Ashton, Dr Liam Fox, MP, Mr Hamza Alawi, Mr and Mrs Robert Gibson, Mr and Mrs Stephen Day, Mr David Watkins, and Mr and Mrs W.N. Stevens.

Round Square

The Duke of York and King Constantine of the Hellenes, who was accompanied by Queen Anne-Marie, Patrons of Round Square, were present at a reception and dinner held on Tuesday night at St James's Palace. The High Commissioner for India, the Ambassador of Germany, the High Commissioner for Kenya and Prince Alexander of Schleswig-Holstein also attended. The Venezuelan Ambassador and the Australian High Commission were also represented. Sir Peter Ustinov was the guest speaker and the Director of Round Square, Mr Terry Guest, presided.

Retirement

Mrs Justice Booth retires as a Judge of the High Court (Family Division) on January 9.

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 071 481 1982
PRIVATE: 071 481 4000
FAX: 071 481 9313
FAX: 071 782 7828

I will open my mouth in parables: I will utter things kept secret since the world was made. St. Matthew 13 : 35 (REB)

BIRTHS

AYLMER - On 11th December, to Belinda (née Parker) and Julian, a daughter, Rosemary Sofia, a sister for Michael.

BARKER-HAHLO - On 7th December, to Davina and Robin, a daughter, Charlotte Alice.

CONSTANTINE SMITH - On December 12th, to Anita (née Simpson) and David, a daughter, Kitty Patience, a sister for Sophie and Rose.

FORT - On 15th December in Rome, to Mary and John, a son, James Alfred.

GRAHAM-WATSON - On 11th December 1993 at UCH, to Cate and Frederick, a son, Thomas, a brother for Rory and Angus.

GRONSETH - On December 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Barbara and Glenn, a beautiful daughter, Ellen Christine, a sister for Peter Glenn.

HARTLEY - On November 27th at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, to Sandra and Josh, a son, Douglas Alexander, a brother for James.

HAWTHORN - On December 8th in Winchester, to Moya and Stewart, a son, Alexander James.

HAZEEL - On Thursday 9th December 1993, to Carolyn (née Warrender) and Francis, a son, Geordie Alexander Robin.

HUGHES - On December 12th, to Helen (née Bacon) and Michael, a son, Benedict Edward James.

JEFFCOCK - On December 16th 1993 at the Royal Bournemouth General Hospital, to George and Sara, a son, Oliver.

JONES - On December 12th 1993, to Debbie Beckerman and Keith Jones, a son, Nicholas Patrick.

DEATHS

AMBLER - On December 13th 1993, peacefully in a nursing home after a long and brave struggle with arthritis, Lieutenant Colonel Dennis Bernard James Ambler, C.B.E. Loved husband of Patricia, father of Tim and Jason. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at 11.45 am on Thursday December 23rd at Bournemouth Crematorium. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations to Guide Dogs for the Blind may be sent to Doric Scott, Portman Lodge Funeral Home, 755 Christchurch Road, Bournemouth, BH7 6AN, tel: (0202) 309609.

ARNOLD - On 10th December, peacefully at Harefield Hospital, James William, aged 20. The darling son and best friend of Maurice and Isabel. The funeral will take place on Friday 17th December at 2pm at The Parish Church of St John the Baptist at Holyrood, Cambridgeshire. He will be sadly missed and always remembered. Family flowers only but donations to 'The Childrens' Heart Unit Fund' may be sent to Dr. E. Shinebourne, The Royal Brompton National Heart Hospital, Sydney Street, London, SW3 6NP.

BEAGLEY - On December 11th, in an Eastbourne hospital, Walter Charles (Bill). Much loved husband of Margaret (Bellot) (Peggy Scott). Funeral Service at East Dean Church, East Sussex, on Wednesday December 22nd at 11.30 am, followed by cremation. Flowers to Haine & Son Ltd., 19 South Street, Eastbourne, East Sussex.

BELLENDEN-CLARKE - See Cooke.

BLACK - On December 12th, peacefully at home, Nellie Emily (Audrey Emma) aged 94 years. Widow of Colin Charteris Black and formerly of Vincent Lionel Douglas. Dearly loved by her family and many friends. Funeral Service at St Matthias Church, Wellswood, 12.15 on Tuesday December 21st followed by private burial in Dartmouth. Flowers may be sent c/o Torbay & District Funeral Service, 11 Babbacombe Road, Torquay.

BORRADAILE - Major General Hugh Alastair C.B., D.S.O., on December 13th, suddenly but peacefully at home. Dearly loved husband of Elizabeth and father of Barbara and John. Funeral Service on Tuesday December 21st at 1.45 pm in Curry Rivel. Private cremation afterwards. Family flowers only please.

CHRISTIE - We have great sorrow in announcing the death of Carmen Christie, the loved wife of Thomas Hunter, mother of Derek, Margaret and Edward, who died suddenly and without pain in Mexico City on 11th December 1993, aged 60 years. Funeral Service at Holy Trinity Church, 148 rue de Mont Blanc, Geneva, on Monday 20th December at 2.30 pm. No flowers please. Donations to Holy Trinity Church.

COOKE - On December 13th 1993 at Torquay suddenly after a long and heroic battle, Diana Blanche Bellenden (née Bellenden-Clarke), beloved wife of the late Francis Lawrence Cooke F.C.A., and Grandmother of Derek and Michael. Funeral Service at St Matthias Church, Wellswood, Torquay, on Wednesday December 22nd at 1.45 pm followed by cremation. Enquiries to Torbay & District Funeral Service, tel: (0803) 315006.

GARTHWAITE - On December 15th, peacefully at home after a short illness, Sir William Garthwaite D.S.C.* aged 87, much loved husband of Pat, loving father of Mark, John, Andrew and Simon and proud grandfather. Funeral Service at St Luke's Church, Mattfield, on Monday 20th December at 1.30 pm. Flowers and enquiries to E.R Hickmott & Son, 41 Grove Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells, tel: (0892) 522462 or donations c/o Hickmott for Cancer Research.

GAYESIDE - On December 15th after a long illness bravely borne, Timothy Neville Gayeside, dearly loved husband, father and grandfather. Service at Guildford Crematorium at 2pm on Tuesday December 21st. No flowers please but donations to the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, Anchor House, 15/19 Britten Street, SW3 3TZ.

JORDAN-MOSS - On December 12th 1993 peacefully after a short illness, Peggy, beloved wife of Nick Jordan-Moss and much loved mother of Denise, Nicholas and Elizabeth. Funeral Service on Tuesday December 21st at Holy Trinity Church, Westcott at 11.45 am, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only but donation for The Children's Society. N.S.P.C.C. or Action Research, may be sent to Sherlock & Sons, Trellis House, Dorking, tel: (0306) 882266.

LENFELDT - On December 13th 1993, peacefully in Brighton General Hospital, Winifred Mary (Mellie) aged 93 years, of Lewes, East Sussex. For many years a member of the Mathematics Department at St Paul's Girls' School. Dearly loved by all her friends and by her late sister Sylvia. Funeral Service to be held at The Downs Crematorium, Brighton, on Monday 20th December 1993 at 11.45 am. No flowers please but if desired donations in lieu may be sent to the Friendly Almshouses, 167 Stockwell Park Road, Brixton.

LYNN - On December 15th, Anna Reigart aged 93 years, Daughter of the late Dr. S.W. Carruthers and aunt of Alison. Funeral Service at St Faith's Crematorium, Norwich, on Monday December 20th at 3.30 pm.

MALTBY - Myrtle, on Monday December 13th 1993, peacefully at her home. Much loved mother of Alan, Neil and Tim, a dear grandmother and loved companion to "Mac" Stephenson. Cremation at the Eastbourne Crematorium on Monday December 20th at 10.30 am. Flowers or donations to Cancer Research c/o R.A. Brooks & Son, Ravenoak, Allington Road, Newick, Lewes, E. Sussex, tel: (0825) 722895 or (0444) 454391.

MANSON - On December 14th, W.M. (Alan), at Exeter, Devon.

NICHOLSON - John Edward Hanson on 28th October 1993 peacefully in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia, aged 90. Enquiries to Hall Abdullah Bin Bakie, Utusan Kinabalu Co. Sdn. Bhd., No. 3, Lorong Dewan, P.O. Box 11066, 88811 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia.

OFFER - On December 14th 1993, Audrey Margaret Offer, wife of the late Herbert Charles Blade Offer and mother of Hazel, William and Sally. Funeral Service and committal at Macclesfield Crematorium on Monday December 20th at 3.30 pm. Enquiries to J.W. Brocklehurst & Sons Ltd. Funeral Directors, tel: (0625) 829232.

PHYALL - Albert Thomas, Priest, on 14th December, aged 91 years. Funeral Mass at St John the Baptist, Holland Road, Kensington, W14, Wednesday 22nd December at 11 am. No flowers. Donations if desired for Christmas flowers to St John the Baptist c/o 176 Holland Road, London W14 or to St Anselm, Hayes c/o 101 Nield Road, Hayes, Middlesex UB3 1SQ.

SCHLESINGER - John died peacefully in New York on 14th December. Our deepest sympathy to Elizabeth. He will be sadly missed. Lydia and Manfred Gorvy.

SMITH - Daisy, born 30th December 1922, passed away December 11th suddenly at home in Little Kimble (formerly of Belmont Close, Uxbridge), devoted wife, mother and grandmother of George, Colin, Claudia and Oliver who will miss her deeply. Funeral Service at Chiltern Crematorium, Amersham, on Tuesday 21st December 11am. Enquiries to K.V. Green Funeral Directors, tel: (0296) 82041.

SMITH - On Tuesday December 14th 1993, peacefully at home, Audrey of Springfield Terrace, South Brent. Funeral Service at St Petroc's Church, South Brent, on Monday December 20th at 9.45 am followed by cremation at Torquay Crematorium at 11 am. Flowers or donations if desired in aid of Cancer Research c/o Parring Funeral Services, 101A High Street, Totnes. 'An inspiration to us all'.

SMYTH - On 13th December, George (St. G) of Heathfield, passed away peacefully. Former employee of The Times. Funeral at Vintners Park Crematorium on Friday 17th December 1993 at 9.30am. Flowers to Doves Funerals, 1 Knightrider Street, Maidstone, Kent, tel: (0622) 688662.

STEWART - On December 12th, suddenly, Alasdair, aged 30 years. Loving and loved son of Pat and Hamish Stewart, brilliant brother of Robin, Gavin and Kate, brother-in-law of Mark and Kath and uncle of Josh. Service and cremation take place at Huddersfield Crematorium on Tuesday December 21st at 12 noon. Will friends please kindly meet at the crematorium. Family flowers only, please, but donations in lieu, to the National Association for Colitis and Crohns Disease, 98a London Road, St Albans, AL1 1NX.

WALWYN - On December 14th, peacefully at home, Pamela Flora Walwyn, beloved wife of the late Rear-Admiral James Humphrey Walwyn, C.B., O.B.E. Family cremation at Mortlake Crematorium on Tuesday 21st December at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to King George's Fund for Sailors, 1 Chesham Street, London SW1X 8NF.

WESTERN - On December 14th 1993, peacefully at home, Elizabeth Mary Western O.B.E. aged 80 years, beloved aunt of Sarah, Caroline and Margaret. Funeral Service at Brandeston Church, Suffolk, on Monday December 20th at 2 pm. No flowers by request but donations if desired to R.U.K.B.A. c/o Moore Bros 13 Station Road, Framlingham, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 9EA.

WILLIAMS - Ernest

OBITUARIES

MYRNA LOY

Myrna Loy, actress, died on December 14 aged 88. She was born in Helena, Montana, on August 2, 1905.



Myrna Loy and William Powell with Asta in *The Thin Man*

FEW Hollywood actresses ever managed so complete a turn-around in their screen image as did Myrna Loy, typecast for years as an oriental seductress and later reincarnated as the perfect wife. Before coming into her own in the mid-1930s, she served a lengthy apprenticeship in silent films, from leads to walk-ons and back again, never quite making it to stardom and playing a variety of roles for which, in retrospect, she seemed singularly miscast: as a spy (in black face) in *Ham and Eggs at the Front* (1927); a soft-hearted guerrilla in *Black Watch* (1929); and a sadistic nymphomaniac in *The Mask of Fu Manchu* (1932). By the time stardom came with *The Thin Man* (1934), she was an excellent all-round actress, who went on to prove that her forte was comedy.

The Thin Man showed a wise-cracking and affectionate married relationship for the first time on screen. Loy was seldom seen in the kitchen or by the fireside and, though she undoubtedly had warmth, half her appeal lay in the fact that she was more chic, sophisticated, witty and resourceful than it was thought any wife could possibly be. She was also lovely to look at, calm and measured in her two-piece suits and saucer-like hats, and accompanied everywhere by a wire-haired fox terrier called Asta. Both men and women adored her, making the *Thin Man* series one of MGM's biggest commercial successes, and guaranteeing Loy a career that lasted well into her eighties.

Myrna Adele Williams was born in Montana to Scottish farmers. Her father died when she was ten and the family moved to Los Angeles for the sake of her mother's health. Loy was educated at a high school in Santa Monica and started her career as a scantily clad chorus girl at Grauman's Chinese Theatre, where she was spotted and given a tiny part in *What Price Beauty* (1925) and the original *Ben Hur* (1926). She had by this time changed her name from Williams to Loy at the suggestion of Rudolph Valentino who thought it sounded exotic — "I didn't intend to keep it very long. But then I signed a contract and I was stuck with it."

Haunting the casting offices, she met the actor Lowell Sherman who thought she might be useful at Warners and helped her win a five-year contract. Thereafter, until she became a star, she averaged around eight films a year. Her most interesting appearances were in films like *The Jazz Singer* (1927) in the role of a showgirl, or *Crimson City* (1928) in which she played her first oriental Shanghai vamp (her soft red hair, green eyes and freckles were heavily disguised by the make-up girls). Like many silent film stars, Loy was worried about the competition offered by newcomers from the stage and tried to get as much exposure as possible.

Early in 1931 Warners dropped Loy. She was not worried — she was by now established as one of Hollywood's most reliable actresses, and found no difficulty getting work. She spent most of the year at Fox, starting with *Renegades*, as one of Bela Lugosi's harem, and going on to play the villainous Morgan le Fay in *A Connecticut Yankee at King Arthur's Court*. But while critics were asking when Loy was going to be raised to official stardom, there seemed, to be only one Hollywood producer who agreed with them. Irving Thalberg had seen her in that year's *Skyline* and liked her so much that he signed her up for MGM.

There her parts seemed to get even smaller at first. In 1932 she played a wise-cracking man-hunter in *Love Me Tonight* ("Do you ever think about anything but men?" someone asks her. "Yes, schoolboys" she replies), and Manchu's sadistic daughter in *The Mask of Fu Manchu*, a role she thought unplayable. But this proved to be the last of her oriental parts and, as with many other stars, it was a loan-out — this time to RKO — that showed her studio what she was really capable of. Playing Leslie Howard's vicious wife in *The Animal Kingdom*, Loy showed real flashes of star quality.

MGM decided to build her up, and for the first time officially listed her as one of their stars. *Night Flight* (1934) was one of several films with Clark Gable, and in *Manhattan Melodrama* (1934) she played a nice girl who deserts Gable's gangster for a politician, played by William Powell. The film gained notoriety by virtue of the fact that the gangster John Dillinger came out of hiding to see it, and was shot dead when he left the cinema.

The director of that film, W. S. Van Dyke, was convinced that Powell and Loy would pair well in comedy. He was given a tiny budget to make the experiment in a film version of Dashiell Hammett's light-hearted murder mystery, *The Thin Man*, and the result was everything he had hoped for.

Here was something quite new. Nick and Norah Charles, a newly-married private eye and his rich wife, living in a splendid Manhattan apartment, were like no other screen couple before them. Adult, liberated, bantering and affectionately railing at each other, their chief interest seemed to be alcohol, and they were no romantics: Norah: "I think it's a dirty trick to bring me all the way to New York just to make a widow of me." Nick: "You wouldn't be a widow long." Norah: "You bet I wouldn't." Nick: "Not with all your money." It was obvious that Powell and Loy loved acting together, and the team was made one of the cornerstones of MGM for the rest of the decade. They made five subsequent *Thin Man* films, the last being *Song of the Thin Man* in 1946.

By now a big star, Loy was given the pick of MGM's leading men. She appeared with Spencer Tracy in *Whipsaw*, with Clark Gable in *Wife versus Secretary* (1936) and with him again in *Parnell* (1937) as Katie O'Shea. This commercial and critical flop harmed neither star and in 1937 Loy was voted the Queen of Hollywood.

As she emerged into the limelight, it became apparent that Loy was one of the least typical of Hollywood actresses — quiet, modest and still living at home with her mother. She also felt that she had been working too hard, and resented being paid only half as much — $1,500 a week — as Powell for their subsequent films together. She made few films during the war years, preferring to work, after the United States had joined the war, for the Red Cross. Following that, with only one year of her MGM contract to go, she tried to have herself released so that she could play on Broadway, or accept an invitation to appear in *Blithe Spirit* in London. But the studio refused to release her, while insultingly offering her part in *Sea of Grass*, bought as a vehicle for Loy and Tracy, to the young Katharine Hepburn.

In 1946 Loy attended the initial meetings of the United Nations in San Francisco. She was subsequently appointed as a US representative to Unesco, serving three-and-a-half years and attending five international conferences in that capacity. With these extra commitments, she made films less frequently and tried to avoid getting stuck in long-term contracts. She reached the height of her career as the perfect wife in *The Best Years of Our Lives* (1946), where she played the wife of an American officer who finds it hard to adjust to civilian life.

But, following that, Loy sought to change her image, though in practice this meant swapping the role of the perfect wife for that of the mother. Her career reached a low point with *That Dangerous Age* (1950), in which she played a woman having an affair with her stepdaughter's boyfriend while her husband goes blind. She followed this with a minor success as the mother of a large brood in *Cheaper by the Dozen* (1950) but, after playing two alcoholics in *Lonelyhearts* (1958) and *From the Terrace* (1960), she announced that she no longer wanted to play the sort of "psychotic, disintegrated old bags" she was being offered, and turned increasingly to the stage. She toured for three years with *Barefoot in the Park* in the early 1960s, and appeared on Broadway in *Relatively Speaking* in 1968 and in a revival of *The Women* in the mid-1970s.

Despite this, Loy was not above taking what she could get in later years, and made many largely forgettable television films in the 1970s and 1980s. Meanwhile, some of her earlier films were becoming favourites, through arts cinema screenings, with a younger generation and, though she never received an Oscar nomination in her 60-year career, Loy was finally awarded an honorary Oscar in 1991. Her autobiography, *Being and Becoming* (1987), was hailed by critics as one of the best books ever written on show business, full of charm, perception and a sense of realism, all the qualities her fans loved in her acting.

Loy found it hard to live up to her reputation as the perfect wife in real life. She was divorced four times, and had no children.

ROBERT PAYNE

Robert Payne, writer, publisher and craftsman, died in Gloucestershire on December 2 aged 89. He was born on September 11, 1904.



ROBERT PAYNE was a talented cabinet maker and craftsman, who found his creative and professional fulfilment as a writer and editor observing country ways. This energy was channelled into the county magazines which he edited and published, *The Gloucestershire Countryside* being probably the most notable. He was a countryman at heart.

Robert Raymond Payne was born in Acocks Green, Birmingham, in 1904, the eldest son of the two distinguished Birmingham Group artists, Henry and Edith (née Gere) Payne. The family moved in 1909, following the births of a second and third son, to St Loes, Amberley, on the southern edge of the Cotswolds.

Payne's individual, sensitive, artistic temperament developed in an environment where both his parents were absorbed in continuous artistic creativity. It was in his father's studio that he learnt the skills of gesso mixing, gliding and life drawing, as well as a certain inner wisdom, a quality he shared with his father.

He was educated at Sidcot School, Somerset, a Quaker foundation, where among the Friends, the gentle side of his nature was not blunted. Here he developed his country interests, learning about gardening and bee-keeping, and taking up pot-holing in the Mendips.

His father insisted that all his three sons learn a craft. On leaving school, Robert Payne was apprenticed to the cabinet maker Peter Waals. He made several pieces of beautiful furniture in the Arts and Crafts tradition, while later on — after studying in the Sculpture School at the Royal College of Art — he carried out several commissions as an architectural sculptor.

In spite of parental pressure to stay in the artistic fold, it was a determination to "make a go of writing," as he put it, which was ultimately to absorb his creative energies. Living back at home in Amberley, where he became a friend of the poet W. H. Davies, who lived in Nailsworth, he began to write features for *The Times*, and became a contributor to *The Gloucestershire Countryside*, whose first edition appeared in 1931 edited by Sir Francis Hyett. Robert Payne was appointed editor in 1937. During the war he combined his editorial role — at £10 per quarterly issue — with his work with the Gloucestershire War Agricultural Committee, carrying out a farm survey establishing land ownership. He married in 1941 and after the war moved to Derybshire, where he became editor of the ten titles in the county magazine group.

In 1959 he and his wife moved to Leamington Spa, founding the company English Counties Periodicals, and continuing to develop the titles. Other publishing ventures included guides to stately homes, and to Coventry and Liverpool (RC) cathedrals.

In 1966 he sold his business to the Whitethorn Press and retired to Painswick, Gloucestershire, to live at Stamages, the former home of his uncle, Charles March Gere. He lived there for the next 23 years. He is survived by his son and daughter. His wife died in 1984.

MARY JARRED

Mary Jarred, operatic and concert contralto, died on December 12 aged 94. She was born at Brotton, Yorkshire, on October 9, 1899.

ONE of the stalwarts of the oratorio circuit before, during and just after the war, Mary Jarred was a singer very much at home in the world of choral societies, although she also had an appreciable career in opera at Covent Garden and elsewhere. Indeed, after deciding to become a singer when she was 18, making a name for herself in the North and studying at the Royal College of Music, her career really began — unusually for British singers in those days — in a German opera house.

On the recommendation of Melchior, she was invited to the Hamburg State Opera and remained there as a guest artist for the following three years. Her roles included the formidable one of the Nurse in Richard Strauss's *Die Frau ohne Schatten* and several in contemporary works by Pfitzner and Berg.

Back in Britain, she took the title part in Gluck's *Orfeo* in 1933 (the critic of *The Times* commented then on her rich voice and noble singing) and Margaret in the famous BBC studio performances of *Wozzeck*, the first in this country, which were conducted by Adrian Boult in 1934. At Covent Garden she was heard mostly in Wagnerian parts, such as Mary in *Der fliegende Holländer* and Erda in *Das Rheingold* and *Siegfried*, for all of which her grave, alto tones peculiarly equipped her.

In oratorio, besides the inevitable Messiahs, she was famed as contralto soloist in Bach's *St Matthew Passion*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah* and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. She was also an appealing Angel in Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius*. In all these parts her commitment, sincerity and warmth of personality were abundantly evident.

She was one of the original soloists invited to sing in Vaughan Williams's *Serenade to Music* in 1938 for the Henry Wood Jubilee Concert. Just before the war she was invited to The Hague to sing in Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*. She was also an accomplished recitalist, particularly suited to the *Lieder* of Brahms, and often sang during the war at Myra Hess's National Gallery concerts.

Once the war was over she made a brief but well remembered return to opera as Mother Goose, the brothel keeper, in Stravinsky's opera, *The Rake's Progress* in 1953, repeating the role in the following two seasons at Glyndebourne.

After retiring in 1955 she taught privately. Among her more notable pupils was the mezzo Sybil Michelow to whom she passed on many of her own attributes. She was then Professor of Music at the Royal Academy of Music, 1966-75. She spent her later days happily at the home for retired artists run by the Musicians' Benevolent Fund.

Mary Jarred was a down-to-earth Yorkshirewoman with a strong personality and decided views on her profession. Although as a teacher she was a hard task-mistress, she was also generous in praise of her pupils.

Her husband, Sam, predeceased her. They had no children.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL NARCISSE GEYER-LA THIVOLLET

Lieutenant-Colonel Narcisse Geyer-La Thivollet, one of the leaders of the armed resistance movement on the Vercors plateau in 1944, died in Burden, Luxembourg, on December 8 aged 80. He was born in Belfort, France, in 1913.

NARCISSE GEYER (he added La Thivollet to his name in memory of his wartime headquarters) was one of the heroes of the brave but tragically-doomed armed resistance to the Germans which took place on the Vercors plateau, southwest of Grenoble, in the summer of 1944. He organised the sabotage of installations and attacks on German units and was one of the few who managed to escape when German airborne troops landed on the plateau in July 1944 and wiped out the defenders. He and his men then linked up with Free French forces advancing from the south and took part in the subsequent campaigns in eastern France and Germany.

The son of an officer, who was killed a month before the 1918 Armistice, he joined the Army and graduated from the celebrated cavalry school at Saumur. The outbreak of the Second World War saw him, with the rank of captain, in Colonel Charles de Gaulle's tank division which, in 1940, distinguished itself in northern France, at one time managing to break through the advancing Germans.

After the Armistice he served with the 11th Cuirassiers in Lyons at the old military barracks — now the site of the TGV railway station. When the Germans moved in to the unoccupied zone, he wrapped the regimental flag around his body, mounted his horse and rode out of the barracks at the head of his men, and headed southwards to the forests and mountains of the Alpes du Dauphiné in the Drôme department.

There he trained resistance units that carried out daring raids on the Germans. He also formed a football team in order to move more easily around the region and, on another occasion, made a short film of his units which emphasised their lack of guns and ammunition. This was smuggled to London and resulted in air drops of weapons and supplies. However — and ominously for later operations in the Vercors — most of these weapons were stenguns, rifles and grenades; the partisans never received the heavy machineguns, mortars and anti-tank guns essential to combat an assault by regular troops supported by armour.

Subsequently Geyer-La Thivollet moved to the Vercors plateau as part of the Plan Montagnards, which aimed to turn the region into an armed citadel. With its high rocky cliffs girdling a massif, most of which was well over 3,000ft high, it offered the prospect of being able to defy large enemy forces. By the end of June 1944 the plateau had been cleared of Germans. With the Normandy invasion already a *fait accompli*, and the Dragoon landings in the South of France impending, the heady scent of an early liberation was in the air.

By now the armed Maquis strength was over 3,000 men, and they were plenteously supplied with weapons and clothing from the air by the Americans. But, again, far too many of the former were submachine guns, useless against the musketry of regular troops in the open field. The fact was that the original enthusiasm of the Gaullist high command in Algiers and London for the Montagnards' plan of seizing large areas of territory and denying them to the Germans had not been properly thought through. It was, anyway, in



defiance of the credo of guerrilla warfare — that the function of the partisan fighter is to hamper the enemy's passage across ground, not to try to hold it.

Geyer-La Thivollet and his men were now to learn this lesson to their bitter cost. On July 18 a force of 10,000 Germans with air and artillery support launched a determined attack against the Maquis stronghold. Though overwhelmed by superior firepower the defenders, aided by the advantages of the rugged ground they occupied, staged a magnificent resistance. For three days the enemy's attacks were held at the cliff edges and could make no progress. Thus balked, the Germans used their air capability and on July 21 tricked the defenders of the Vercors by landing 200 SS men in their rear in a score of gliders with British markings. Against these crack troops the lightly armed partisans could make no headway. Their small force was sucked into a battle of attrition and after a fierce contest lasting two more days in drenching rain they broke and were ordered to disperse.

The resistance of the Maquisards now resulted in savage reprisals, particularly by SS troops, against the armed defenders and the civilian population. In yet another of the many dark chapters the SS has written in the annals of iniquity, men were tortured or shot out of hand; women were raped and eviscerated. For the French it was a bitter end to a brave resistance effort.

Geyer-La Thivollet was among those lucky enough to escape from these barbarities. His 11th Cuirassiers joined up with the French First Army of General de Lattre de Tassigny, which was advancing from the Mediterranean coast up the Rhône from mid-August 1944. He took part in the liberation of Lyons and thereafter in the fierce battles in the Vosges mountains as the First Army forced an entry into Alsace on its way to the Rhine. He was present at the Rhine crossing and participated in the advance into southern Germany in the Spring of 1945.

Geyer-La Thivollet, regarded by his men as an extremely brave officer of great panache, was awarded the Médaille de la Résistance, the Croix de Guerre and made a commander of the Légion d'Honneur in recognition of his wartime feats.

After the war he remained in the Army reaching the rank of lieutenant-colonel and retiring in the late 1960s. He is survived by a married daughter, whom he was visiting in Luxembourg when he died.

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DEATH SENTENCE ON EICHMANN

JERUSALEM (ISRAEL SIDE)—Dec. 15

Adolf Eichmann's Israel judge today condemned him to death by hanging for the murder of their people. The sentence was pronounced by Mr. Justice Landau. Eichmann listened with stoicism; during the 12 minutes of the reading of the sentence, he stood rigidly in his glass cage, revealing neither terror nor regret.

Mr. Justice Landau told him that he could appeal against the verdict and the sentence within 10 days. The defence has indicated that it will do so.

The court also gave him a slender hope that the death penalty may be commuted on appeal. It held that the maximum penalty was not mandatory in his case, as the prosecutor had argued, but was up to the judgment of the court.

Eichmann was condemned for four crimes against the Jewish people, seven crimes against humanity, and a war crime. Most of the counts alluded to the murder and persecution of Jews as part of the Nazi conspiracy to blot out the race, but four dealt with the forceful expulsion of Poles, Slovenes, gypsies, and the children of the Czech village of Lidice from their homes. In passing sentence, the court once again rejected Eichmann's contention that there had been a miscarriage of justice. He has argued that his hands were clean of blood and that he merely transported the doomed Jews to the slaughter-houses under orders from his superiors.

"The dispatch by the accused of every train carrying 1,000 souls to Auschwitz or to other places of extermination amounted to direct participation in 1,000 acts of pre-medinated murder", Mr. Justice Landau said. "His legal and moral responsibility for those murders is in no way less than the measure of responsibility of those who shoved them into the gas chambers. Even if we had found that the accused acted out of blind obedience, as he alleges, we should have said that one who had participated in crimes of such dimensions for years on end has to undergo the greatest punishment known to the law and no order given to him could be a ground even for mitigating his punishment.

"But in fact we have found that in acting as he did the accused identified himself in his heart with the orders received by him and was actuated by an ardent desire to attain the criminal object . . ."

Mr. Justice Landau dismissed the prosecutor's argument that the death sentence was obligatory. He agreed that the intention of the legislators who enacted the law for the punishment of Nazi collaborators in 1940 had been to make the death penalty mandatory, but said that the legislation for the amendment of the criminal law enacted in 1954 made every penalty provided in law a maximum penalty. Hence the court concluded that the measure of punishment in this case was a matter for the discretion of the court.

He then said that the court had decided that "for due punishment of the accused and for the deterrence of others, the maximum penalty laid down by law has to be imposed".

ON THIS DAY

December 16 1961

Eichmann was captured at the end of the war, but escaped to South America where, in 1960, he was traced by Israeli agents and kidnapped. His appeal for clemency was rejected and he was executed on May 31, 1962.

• Rivals for Christmas profits • Tunnel challengers • Airline's Europe threat

Season of peace and Concorde

BY WILLY NEWLANDS

■ Several northern countries claim to be Santa Claus's home and the rightful heir to tourist revenues. Even Scotland is getting in on the money-making act

TRADITIONAL Christmas, according to the Lapps of Arctic Finland, starts when you hear the first Concorde.

That is the way it has started every Yuletide for the past decade at least. The great white bird brings money out of the sky: more than 200 children with their parents, each spending £1,395 on the two-day trip from London, plus a lot more when they get to Santa's workshop, the reindeer and the elves.

Right on the Arctic Circle, Santa Claus has just opened a duty-free shop at Rovaniemi airport ("prices lower than Amsterdam!"), to show that his heart is in the right place. The tills of his nearby workshop tinkle merrily for 300,000 visitors each year.

Everybody in Finland may be happy about this, but rival claimants to be the home of Father Christmas are not so sure. Sweden's Santa is firmly established with his workshops at Mora in north Sweden, and the Norwegians believe he lives down a mine on the far northern island of Spitsbergen. He is also claimed by Greenland, Iceland — and Scotland.

Historically, the best case seems to be put by a little town on the Mediterranean coast of Turkey. Demre, near the Greek island of Rhodes, can show you his abandoned church and his marble tomb. He was bishop of the town, then called Myra, about 1,700 years ago.

Six years ago the Muslims of Demre put up a statue to Santa Claus — they call him Noel Baba — in the churchyard, where he stands with his sack over his shoulder, surrounded by children. They hoped that the crowds would come but none did. Even an annual Santa Claus convention there in December has been poorly attended.

Did he really exist? Scholars point out a reference to Nicholas at the Council of Nicaea, where he slapped down a heretic so firmly that his bones rattled. That was in 325 AD. In Demre, they will tell you he was a good man who gave dowries to poor girls so they would not be forced into prostitution.

His bones were stolen from the Turkish church by pirates and taken to Bari, in Italy. He was the patron saint of sailors, later of children. The Low Countries seem to have pulled most of the threads together to give us the modern Santa Claus.

The Finns make the strongest claims to his 20th-century home. Their tourist publicity says: "The only real Father Christmas lives in Finnish Lapland, a winter wonderland where dreams really do come true." Last December, the Finns add, 5,000 Britons visited "his Christmas workshop". They say that guests to Santa's homeland can post Christmas cards and presents to anywhere in the world, enjoy a reindeer sleigh ride, a snowmobile or husky safari under a moonlit, starry sky — all at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

There are 34 charter departures from British airports to join in the fun, notably the Goodwood Travel Concorde trips, which were sold out weeks in advance.

The Swedes put in a strong case with Santaworld at Mora, which welcomes 70,000 visitors a year, but have to admit that the sleighs are drawn by horses, not the essential reindeer.

In Britain, the Post Office is more cagey about Santa's home. It says it "helps him out by replying to letters on his behalf" — three-quarters of a million last year. The operation is now so big that it is being handed to a private company.

In Scotland, Santa Claus Land is being reopened today at the Cairngorm resort of Aviemore and Don Lawson, the manager, expects 300,000 visitors to Santa's grotto this year. For the opening, there will be genuine local reindeer and Santa himself, from Cheshire — "real white beard, real white eyebrows, really plump and cheerful". He now has a full-time job in Inverness-shire, 365 days a year, no matter what they may say in Lapland, Sweden or anywhere else.



Finland's Santa Claus at Rovaniemi does his stuff, with all the Christmas trimmings

Ferries pursue big business

BY STEVE KEENAN

FERRY companies are stepping up efforts to attract business travellers in advance of the Channel tunnel opening next spring.

One in ten cross-Channel ferry passengers travels on business, and the market — worth £40 million a year — is growing at the rate of 10 per cent a year, according to P & O European Ferries.

The operator installed "club" lounges on its ferries two years ago, allowing passengers to upgrade at nominal cost — £6 on Dover-Calais for 1994. Apart from free soft drinks, steward service and newspapers, business facilities include a fax, photocopier, writing desks and telex.

From January 1, Hoverspeed will again operate its "Blue Riband Elite" scheme on the Dover-Calais and Folkestone-Boulogne routes. Membership, with a joining fee of £50, is subject to ten return crossings during the year.

For that, the scheme offers priority loading, a dedicated reservation line and no cancellation charges.

Geoffrey Ede, the managing director, says: "Business travel for Hoverspeed is an important part of our total short-sea market and we predict that this sector will continue to increase in 1994."

Most business travellers will take the "short-sea" routes from Dover, Folkestone, Ramsgate or Harwich. They tend to be sales executives or middle management from London and the South East, a Stena Sealink spokesman says. Stena also operates a business lounge for members of the scheme, offering the usual soft drinks, newspapers and access to fax. Membership is £10 a year.

The ferry operators reward regular travellers in two ways. Stena, Hoverspeed and P & O — all competing on the prime Dover-Calais route — have onboard business lounges. But Stena, P & O and Sally Line also operate "frequent sailor" schemes, rewarding regular travellers with discounts on future crossings.

On Stena's three cross-Channel routes, its "Compass Points" scheme operates with two classes of membership — blue and gold cards, the gold being available after six return crossings. For every £100 spent, 100 points are awarded. For blue card holders, five points equal a £1 voucher for use against travel. For gold card members, four points mean a £1 voucher.

Sally Line — operating Ostend and Dunkirk from Ramsgate — this year introduced a Nautical Miles programme. Every crossing results in a 25 per cent discount on a future booking or a free car day trip.

Two crossings mean a a 50 per cent discount or free 72-hour return; three trips a 75 per cent discount or free 120-hour return and four trips a free crossing.

While wooing regular leisure and business traffic, the ferry companies are taking a closer look at on-board conference facilities. Stena has separate rooms on all routes and says the six-hour Harwich-Hook of Holland sailing attracts good custom.

P & O is also looking at the viability of conference facilities on its 28-hour Portsmouth-Bilbao route.

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British Midland to take on EC

BY JOANNA WALTERS

BRITISH Midland Airways threatened this week to take the European Commission to court and halt its own expansion plans if Brussels "turns the clock back" on aviation liberalisation.

Sir Michael Bishop, the airline's chairman, has called on the Government for more support in lobbying Brussels to get tough on top-heavy flag-carriers.

State-owned Aer Lingus, which is losing £1 million a week, hopes to receive Commission approval before Christmas for a huge injection of survival cash from its government shareholder.

Other EC airlines are waiting in the wings for similar hand-outs. But Sir Michael is insisting that stringent conditions should be attached to the "state aid" for Aer Lingus as a clear signal from Brussels that it is committed to increased competition in the European Union, and that it will pursue its pledge to crack down on cross-subsidisation, seat dumping, and predatory pricing in the industry.

He is already taking legal advice, and plans to take the Commission all the way to the European Court of Justice if he is not satisfied. Sir Michael says: "Airlines like us came into the so-called liberalised Europe on January 1, 1993, on the understanding that competition will be better monitored, and the trading environment not distorted."

Sir Michael has expanded BM strongly into Europe in the past three years, with routes from Heathrow to Paris, Brussels and Frankfurt. But he wants Government support to stop Brussels "moving the regulatory goal posts".

He said that in the present environment, there was no prospect of fares going down from key airports such as Heathrow.

● The author writes for *Travel Trade Gazette*.



Action: Sir Michael Bishop

On a piste and a prayer

BY RUTH GLEDHILL

HUNDREDS of skiers will take special measures to avoid becoming one of the many casualties on the slopes this winter by seeking divine intervention the night before.

They will be on one of the burgeoning number of Christian ski holidays at home and abroad.

The undeniably secular nature of most ski holidays is entirely absent from the programme offered by the market leader, MasterSki. Here, *après ski* means worship, teaching, prayer and romantic sleigh rides, on top of the usual tobogganning and ice skating.



On a smaller scale, alpine retreats for "clapped out Christians" are on offer in Switzerland. At home, week-long ski teaching is combined with bible study and discussion on the ski slopes of Cairn Gorm in Scotland.

Unlike many ski holidays, these are sold on the basis of spiritual and not material enjoyment.

Drawing on biblical injunctions that people need regular breaks from life's routines to rest and be refreshed, the organisers argue there is no better place to do that and draw closer to God than "in the spectacular beauty of snowy mountains".

MasterSki, in its tenth season, aims that holidaymakers should return home from France and Austria "both physically and spiritually refreshed". They say: "Over the years, we have been so encouraged to see how God uses our holidays in a very special way."

They promote the worship and fellowship in the evening as "a natural culmination to the thrill of a day's skiing". Early morning and evening prayer meetings are run by experienced Christian leaders, chiefly from the evangelical churches in the UK. In Switzerland, Georgina and Roger Wiles run an alpine retreat for skiiers and non-skiiers from March to April. In the alpine village of Champéry, their traditional Swiss chalet offers skiing in the Portes du Soleil area, which covers 400 miles of pistes in Switzerland and France. They have silence before the evening meal for reading, praying or enjoying the open fire, and there is a simple communion service once a week.

In Scotland, the Abernethy Christian centre in the Spey valley at the foot of the Cairngorm mountains offers a full season of downhill and cross-country skiing on the slopes of Cairn Gorm and the Lecht. Schools skiing features heavily in their programme.

● *MasterSki (081-942 9442). Alpine Retreat (081-878 6711). Abernethy Trust (0479 821279).*

TRAVELOGUE

Skiing for families

SKIING with Ski Esprit (0252 616789) allows one child to travel free with every adult for the price of £269 an adult, including return flights and one week in the catered Chalet Les Eveques in Villars, Switzerland. The holiday, departing December 19, offers an in-chalet crèche and two nights' free babysitting plus activity club for children.

☐ THE Carlton Hotel Collection (081-908 3348) offers weekend breaks in Holland from £24 per person per night based on two adults sharing a double or twin room on a bed-and-breakfast basis.

☐ LADY WADE-GERY, wife of a former British High Commissioner in Delhi and an expert on Indian history, leads a 20-day escorted tour to southern India on February 18 with *Trans Indus* (081-566 2729). The cost is £2,497 with a single supplement of £469, and includes accommodation, train journeys, and Goa's beaches.

☐ AIRLINE Ticket Network (0800 727 747) is repeating its seven-day free economy car hire offer for travellers departing for Florida or California between January 2 and March 15. Florida flights start from £194, California from £265.

☐ THOSE wanting to work off weight gained at Christmas can spend seven days at Round Hill on Montego Bay, Jamaica, on a spa programme with exercise classes, yoga, massage and beauty treatments. Offer available January 22 to April 16 at £2,350 including flights. Details: Elegant Resorts (0244 325620).

Prestige hotel re-opens

BY MICHAEL HAMLYN

THE Mount Nelson Hotel, the best-known hotel in South Africa, re-opened yesterday after six months of enforced closure.

Ravaged by fire on June 14 this year, the Cape Town hotel — which first opened in March 1899 — hoped to re-open after two days' closure, then after two weeks, then two months. The damage was done by water rather than flames as first the sprinkler system, then the firemen's hoses and finally the burst pipes soaked into the dry wooden fabric, curling floorboards and caving in ceilings.

The "Nellie" has been regularly listed alongside the Raffles in Singapore, the Galle Face in Colombo, the Oriental in Bangkok and the Shepheards in Cairo as the finest that colonial hospitality had to offer. It was built by the Castle Shipping Line to accommodate arriving passengers in the style to which they had become accustomed on the voyage from Southampton.

During the second Boer War, a series of generals, including Kitchener, stayed on their way to the front, and even the young Winston Churchill, then a war correspondent, stayed at the hotel, describing it as a "most excellent and well appointed establishment which may be thoroughly appreciated after a sea voyage".

The hotel has been restored at a cost of R18 million (about £3.6 million) and another R18 million spent on improvements such as swimming-pool and kitchens.

A double room costs R810 a night (£162), double occupancy. The most expensive suites cost R2,000.

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• Goodbye to seaside seats • Back to the Balearics • On a festive spending spree

Spain builds up for record 43 million tourists

BY EDWARD OWEN

RECORD numbers of tourists are expected to visit Spain next year, according to the Spanish government. So many bookings have already been taken that the government is confidently predicting that there will be 43 million foreign visitors in 1994 — two million more than this year.

Nearly eight million Britons are expected to be among the visitors taking advantage of the cheaper pesetas and bargain offers at resorts which have spent lavishly on improving their image. Over the past five years Spain has built 6,000 km of new roads, spending £2.3 billion this year alone on 600 km.

Between 1989 and 1993, Spain received £5,000 million of European Community funding that was mostly used towards new motorways, improving water resources and updating airports. Over the next four years a further £3.5 billion will be invested on road-building enabling large parts of the previously undeveloped hinterland to be opened up to tourism.

The most ambitious project, initially considered a white elephant, was the new high-speed train link between Madrid and Seville, which cost £2,500 million pounds. This week, however, Spanish state railways claimed the 150 mph trains were running with an average 84 per cent occupancy and making a profit.

Spain's bid to attract quality tourism seems to be working. Fernando Panizo, secretary general of Spanish tourism, says: "Bookings for the Canaries and the Balearics are spectacular. Spain is the first destination of individual British travellers and our surveys show that visitors are more satisfied with a stay in Spain than any other country."

But they still complain about booking surprises, noise and dirty bars. Complaints that the coast was developing uncontrollably and tourists were being subjected to outrageous rip-offs grew to such an extent following the boom year of 1987 that many Spanish resorts saw a slump in bookings. Señor Panizo says that Spanish hotels have reduced prices but still maintain higher standards than elsewhere. "Unlike France, for example, all our three-star hotel rooms have their own bathrooms," he says.

He estimates that seven out of ten tourists have visited Spain before and are returning after a few years' break because they recognise that the Spanish are cleaning up their act.

Señor Panizo says: "The industry is adapting to changes in the market. We had to stop the deterioration of hotels and the coast caused by mass tourism." About 150 miles of new beaches and 83 miles of marine parades have been constructed while beach bars emitting loud music and raw sewage have been bulldozed. The budget for the new Costas Action Plan 1993-1997 is £750 million.

Benidorm, on the Costa Blanca, one of the world's biggest resorts, says that British bookings for next summer have risen 176 per cent on 1993. Bookings are up 25 per cent around Barcelona, transformed by the Olympics.

Next year Spain will spend £30 million pounds on tourist promotion, also sponsoring golf tournaments as well encouraging equestrian and skiing holidays. The industry, the world's third largest after those of the USA and China, accounts for 8.3 per cent of the gross national product, employs 1.4 million people and offers two million beds in hotels and seven million in apartments and villas.

Is the deck chair doomed?

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

■ The rows of striped-canvas chairs on the seafront, as much a part of British resorts as sticks of rock, could soon be gone for ever



The deck chair was still holding its own on Brighton beach in the early 1960s

THE wooden deck chair, eccentrically designed symbol of the British seaside holiday and favourite prop of the slapstick comic, could soon be extinct.

Morecambe Bay tourist officials announced last week that they had failed to find a new taker for the deck chair concession on the seafront. Now other resorts admit the market is close to collapsing.

The folding seat, simple to stack but the very devil to put up, has trapped thousands of unwary fingers in its snapping woodwork since it first appeared on British beaches towards the end of the 19th century.

Its popularity, which reached its peak between the wars, has now fallen so drastically, however, that many seaside resorts last bought new chairs 20 years ago and others have replaced the wooden design with white plastic sun loungers.

All attempts at "modernising" the deck chair — from the increasing use of plastic and tubular steel, to the introduction of bright fabric instead of simple striped canvas — appear doomed to failure. The British seem to have grown out of the humble deck chair and all that went with it — knotted handkerchiefs on the head, rolled-up trousers and the unique smell of a garden shed in summer with its obligatory deck chair propped against the wall.

Though mobile phones now keep traders in touch with one another as they hire out chairs on the seafront, the beach furniture has failed to keep up with the times.

Blackpool, which once had 250,000 on its seafront, now rents out only 15,000 in the summer. A manufacturer which used to sell 25,000 chairs anually, had orders for just 5,000 this year. The rapid decline of the traditional chair has prompted predictions that it will disappear from British beaches within a generation.

No one knows for certain who invented the deck chair. One of the contenders may have been Edward Atkins, from Bethnal Green, east London, who in the 1890s took six deck chairs to Margate for the use of his family. On his return home, he ordered 100 more from his furniture works after being pestered with requests from other holidaymakers to borrow them. Fellow Londoners William Henry and his brother Samuel George Vaughan, from Shoreditch, patented the design of a folding chair in 1880. Around the same time, John Moore, an inventor and manufacturer from Macclesfield, Cheshire, lost his arm in an accident assembling a deck chair he had designed at his factory.

For more than a decade, Blackpool has been running its 15,000 deck chairs at a loss. This season it had to subsidise them by £60,000.

The resort's deputy director of tourism, John Hall, said: "The deck chair is in terminal decline, but the point at which we switch off the life support system is some way off. Blackpool is one of the few towns where on a hot day in summer you can still see thousands of people just sitting out in deck chairs. It is part of the traditional pattern of seaside life, it is what certainly the elderly still expect, but it is diminishing. I cannot see it continuing in its present form through the next generation."

Mike Richardson, marketing director of the English Tourist Board, said: "Gone are the days when the family would travel from Leeds to Scarborough on the train, and hire a deck chair at the seaside, spending all day sitting on the beach. Nowadays most people come by car, bringing chairs with them."

Tim Whitehead, of the English Riviera, Torquay, believes that plastic sun loungers are rapidly becoming more popular than the traditional deck chairs. "They are more comfortable to sit on and we have been buying more and more over the last few years. But people no longer want to spend eight hours on the beach. They want to explore the amusements in the town."

Bob Warner, 53, owner of the Southend Deck Chair company, manufactures and sells 5,000 chairs a year and owns 15,000 chairs on the Southend seafront.

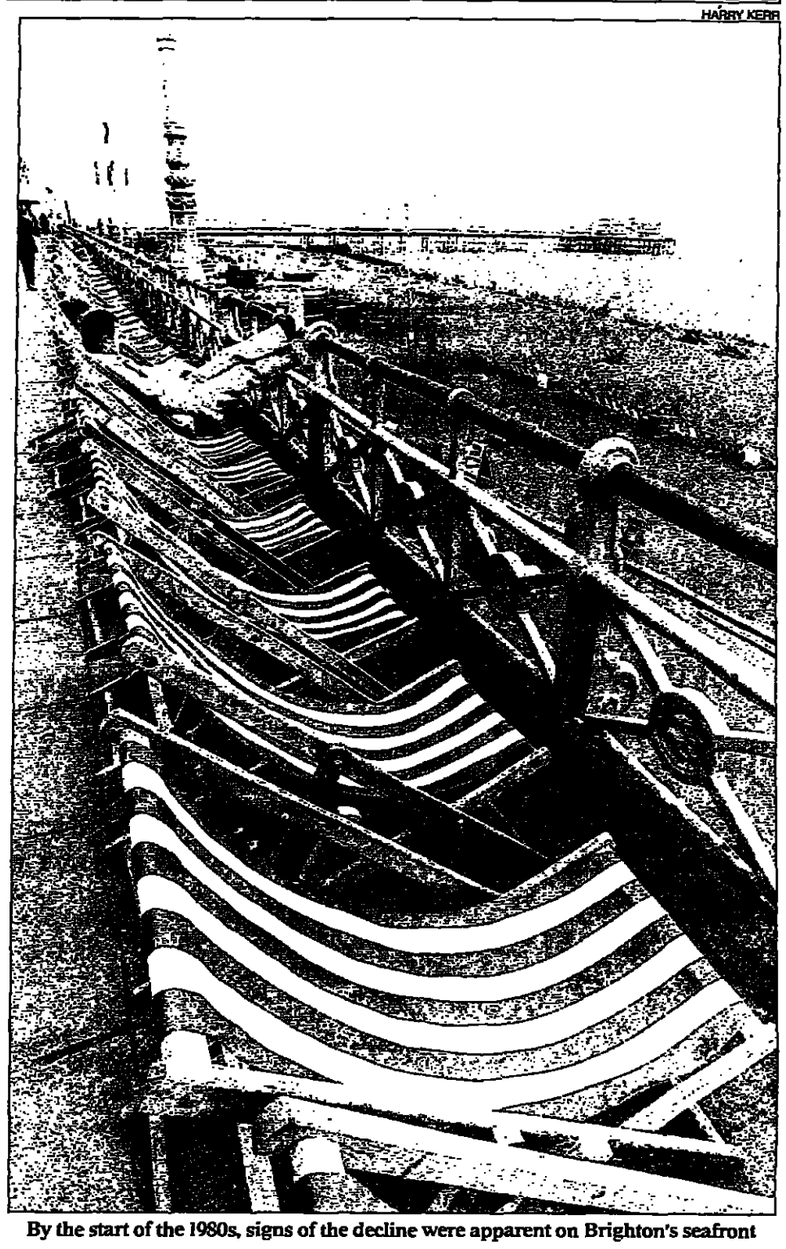
The 25 staff he employs in the height of the season on the seven miles of beach keep in touch with mobile phones, and he also supplies chairs to English Heritage, Butlins, and Royal Parks of London.

His main complaint is that modern sun oils leave stains on the canvas backs of his chairs. "A deck chair can last 10-15 years on the seafront, but I had £70,000 worth of new chairs stolen four years ago," he says. "I sold about 5,000 chairs this year even though we are in a recession. In the peak years of 1974 to 1985 the number was more than 25,000, but the demand is dying now."

There may still be some hope for the deck chair. The Somadec factory in Bondeville, Normandy, still makes 230,000 beechwood and canvas chairs, known as "transats" from the days of their use on transatlantic voyages. They are exported mainly to Switzerland and Germany. Companies in Hungary and Romania are, meanwhile, making vast quantities of low-priced chairs to sell to the Continent.

● *An exhibition tracing the history of the British seaside resort from Punch and Judy shows and bathing machines to piers and winter gardens has opened in Brighton at the Gardner Centre on the University of Sussex campus and will go on tour next month.*

HARRY KERR



By the start of the 1980s, signs of the decline were apparent on Brighton's seafront

TRAVELOGS

Elephant trail

FOUR places are left on an 18-day expedition to find giant elephants in Nepal. The expedition, led by Colonel John Blashford-Snell, leaves on February 4 and aims to track down two bull elephants spotted in Western Nepal. The 12-strong team will study all aspects of wildlife along the Kanali River in Nepal. One traveller who has signed up for the £4,145 all-inclusive trip is aged 76. Discovery Expeditions is on 0747 55050.

Monkey protest

BARBADOS holiday brochures were dumped on the doorstep of the island's tourist authority in London this week in protest at an alleged trade in monkeys for laboratory research. The British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection claims that the popular Barbados Wildlife Reserve masks a trade in which monkeys are kept "in cages often not big enough to stand up in" before being sold to Europe and North America. The BUAV asked passers-by to boycott the island.

Great Big Apple

NEW YORK has climbed to seventh place in the 1993 list of the most popular destinations compiled by the Premier Cities division of Crystal holidays. Paris, Amsterdam, Vienna and Prague hold on to the top four places in the list followed by Bruges, Rome and New York, all climbing rapidly.

Airports fly high

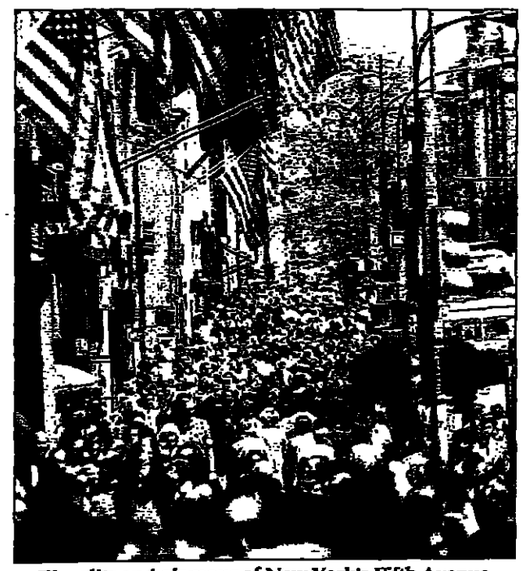
THE increasing demand for air travel shows no sign of abating. The seven airports owned by BAA handled 5.6 million passengers in November, a rise of 4.2 per cent on the same month last year. Stansted was 12 per cent up on the same month last year.

Travel News is edited by Harvey Elliott

A tale of Christmas shopping in two of the Western world's greatest cities

All credit to New York

BY VICTORIA MATHER



The glitz and glamour of New York's Fifth Avenue

MY NAME is Victoria and I am a shopaholic. It's not the presents or the food or the parties I love about Christmas, it's shopping for the presents, the food and the party clothes. And there is nowhere in the world better for a seasonable shopping binge than New York. New York still believes in Father Christmas: he's tall, he's black and he stands outside F.A.O. Schwartz, the mighty toy shop, bellowing: "Ho-ho-YO, man!"

I go to New York every December for the retail therapy. My credit card has a colossal hangover in January but, provided I abstain for a few weeks, I can save the price of my flight (£315 on British Airways) on my winter wardrobe, cosmestics, handbags, gloves, tights, those Christmas presents *and* see all the new movies at half the London price in double the comfort. A seat at the Ziegfeld, a Cunard of a cinema at 141 West 54th Street, is $7 (£4-50). A prime seat at the Empire, Leicester Square is £8.

The savings are repeated throughout the chain-stores and the glitzy, glamorous grandes dames of shopping, such as Saks Fifth Avenue — provided you buy American.

And who doesn't buy The Gap? Even grungy teenagers think the simple, natural clothing in natural fabric is cool. A denim jacket, lined in wool tartan, costs $58 there and some £60 here and the dream price ticket is repeated through jeans, T-shirts and sweaters. The Gap, Gap Kids and Baby Gap are all over town but serious Scrooges can go to The Gap Outfit (60 West 34th Street in Herald Square) for lower than sale discount on Gap classics.

And there is always a sale, always a deal in New York — Maureen Lipman once bought three Cartier watches and four Chanel bags, all marvellous fakes, for less than $100, on the Lower East Side.

At Bloomingdales, a cornucopia opens until 10pm and designer lines are regularly discounted. Calvin Klein and DKNY had 40 per cent of some jackets and skirts: a large bottle of Clinique scent cost $35 (some £35 here) together with a free body cream and shower gel.

At Saks, Liz Claiborne's gold evening sweaters are $98 (£150 in Harrods). In Ann Taylor, the chain for classic clothes, brown satin-lined suede trousers cost $198 as opposed to £192, unlined, at Joseph in London. CDs are $6-7, Game Boys $49: the only limit is your suitcase capacity.

There are airline/hotel deals but my Christmas present to myself was a suite at the Carlyle, where Grace Kelly took tea, Anthony Hopkins lunches and Ronald Reagan stays.

The Carlyle is a duchess of a hotel where a lady may safely laze and the staff politely decline tips, a huge saving. Suites (with own fax) from $500 (£500 at the Berkeley).

But the best entertainment in New York is free: admiring the 84ft tree at the Rockefeller Center was a mink-clad woman and her poodle in tam-o'-shanter, tartan coat and a watch on his right paw. He was specially dressed to see Santa Claus.

Paris discounts the seasonal glitter

BY CHRISTOPHER WARMAN

A YEAR ago visitors to Paris were buying £370 Chanel handbags so fast that they were restricted to three only. This Christmas, the shop displays are as enticing as ever, but the exchange rate has brought a more cautious approach to the Parisian shopping spree.

To judge from the constantly full house at the Moulin Rouge, however, there are still large numbers of tourists attracted to Paris and the surrounding Ile de France region, but hoteliers admit that this year trade has suffered, reducing by at least 10 per cent and up to 35 per cent for some.

Accordingly, they are almost all offering cheaper packages, hoping to increase the number of weekend breaks and short stays, giving such discounts as three nights for the price of two.

If Paris does not need to sell itself, the Ile de France, seven departments around Paris, whose attractions range from the Palace of Versailles to Euro Disney, is actively campaigning to draw more tourists, and confident that the opening of the Channel tunnel will provide a boost.

The number of British tourists to France has fallen this year by 4 per cent from 7.9 million in 1992, but Georges Metaxas, commercial director of the French government tourist office in London, says that the tunnel could bring one million more to France in the first year.

The Ile de France tourism organisation has drawn up a list of 100 weekend and short-break packages; with themes such as painting, food, sports and museums. Versailles may be the jewel, but there are more than 200 museums and 2,000 classified monuments and buildings to choose from. There is, for example, the Château de Breteuil at Chevreuse, southwest of Paris, open 365 days a year, where visitors are invariably welcomed by the Marquis or Marquise of Breteuil.

The Marquis, who is president of the French Historic Houses Association, learnt some of the tricks of the trade from British historic house owners.

A NEW SERVICE FOR READERS

THE TIMES TRAVELEX CURRENCY CALL SERVICE

THE FLUCTUATION in currency exchange rates — especially in far-flung and unusual destinations — can have an enormous impact on the budgets of both holidaymakers and business travellers alike.

Now *The Times* has linked with Travelex, one of the world's leading currency service operators, to provide readers with the latest prices and the most efficient currency collection service.

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Calls cost 36p per minute cheap rate and 48p per minute at all other times.

The 12 key currencies below will be listed every Thursday in Travel News

Australia	2.14 $Aus	Germany	2.49 DM	S Arabia	5.52 SR
Belgium	52.01 BFr	Holland	2.77 Fl	Spain	203 Pta
Canada	1.93 C$	Italy	2456 L	Switzerland	2.13 SFr
France	8.46 FFr	Japan	160.5 Y	USA	1.45 $

British use the French connection

BY ROBIN YOUNG

INCREASING numbers of Britons are hiring holiday homes in France from their fellow countrymen rather than French owners. More than 20,000 chose this option this year.

John and Joyce Smith, who publish *Chez Nous*, a brochure of holiday homes in France, have expanded the publication by 50 per cent for 1994. It now features more than 1,000 properties including, for the first time, Alsace.

Holidaymakers book direct with the owners, saving commission, and many prices have been held at 1993 rates. A farm cottage for eight with a swimming pool in the Lot in southwest France costs £625 a week in peak season, and £395 off peak. A stone cottage for six in Brittany costs from £100 a week up to £275.

Mr Smith says: "In the past Francophiles were happy to book a holiday in a simple *gite*. Today expectations are much higher. More and more British property owners now realise that to let throughout the summer they have to offer swimming pools and satellite television."

Chez Nous is available from 85 Dobb Top Road, Holmbridge, Huddersfield, HD7 1QP (0484 684075).

Summer has arrived; SEYCHELLES Exotic Beaches & Free Safari Allamanda-Mahe, inc: Free PM Safari NBO From £824 (1Nt Nairobi & 7Nts Beach B & B)

ISLAND HOP Reef Hotel - Mahe 7Nts + Praslin Beach Hotel From £1320 (Mahe 7Nts B & B, Praslin 7Nts H/B)

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NEWS

Ulster accord isolates hardliners

■ Britain and Ireland were nervously awaiting a response from the IRA after John Major and Albert Reynolds challenged the men of violence to put down their weapons and negotiate a permanent peace in Northern Ireland.

They appeared to have scored a success with their historic accord, which won widespread backing at Westminster and the Dail, leaving the hardliners isolated **Pages 1, 2, 3, 16, 17**

Hammer falls on Gatt talking shop

■ With a huge sigh of relief, 117 countries ended more than seven years of grinding negotiation by agreeing a historic trade treaty, 12 hours before the expiry of the deadline set by the US. Peter Sutherland, director-general of Gatt, banged down a mahogany gavel to close talks on the most ambitious commitments on open trade ever made **Pages 1, 12, 13, 16, 17, 23**

Death knell for Bart's

Virginia Bottomley delivered a *coup de grace* to St Bartholomew's hospital, signalling the end of one of London's most famous palaces of disease. The closure of its casualty department is expected next year..... **Pages 1, 4**

House prices to soar

House prices will rise by 19 per cent across the country next year, and by 25 per cent in prime areas of London, according to the research department of Savills estate agent..... **Page 1**

Box-office hit

Only a week after opening in Los Angeles, *Sunset Boulevard*, the musical by Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, is set to break all box-office records in the city. The show is to open on Broadway in New York as soon as a theatre can be found..... **Page 4**

Killer escapes

Police across southern England were hunting a convicted killer who escaped from his guards while on a Christmas shopping trip from Broadmoor top security hospital..... **Page 4**

Nanny's unhappy find

A nanny who believed she worked for "a happy family" arrived at work to find her woman employer and her two children dead, an inquest heard.... **Page 4**

Dead for three years

A man who lay dead in his council flat for three years was being sued for non-payment of rent by Brent Council..... **Page 5**

Reed guest's antics

A guest of Oliver Reed, the actor, had urinated into a champagne glass in front of diners at a restaurant including the Seychelles minister of culture, the High Court was told..... **Page 5**

Cult women lose

Two British women accused of plotting to murder a lawyer while they were members of a religious cult lost their fight to prevent extradition to the United States..... **Page 6**

Election pledge

Vuk Draskovic, the Serbian opposition leader regarded as a liberal in Britain, promised a greater Serbia at an emotional election rally in Belgrade..... **Page 9**

Arafat confident

Yassir Arafat, the PLO chairman, forecast that all the problems over Israel's withdrawal from Gaza would be resolved..... **Page 9**

Bill introduced

China accused Britain of creating chaos in Hong Kong after a Bill for a limited democracy was tabled..... **Page 11**

White House alarmed

President Clinton and his top advisers were described as startled and shaken by the results of Russia's elections..... **Page 10**

Andreotti grilled

Giulio Andreotti, the former Italian Prime Minister, struggled to disprove new evidence of his alleged links to the Mafia that appeared damning..... **Page 13**

Cheers, to a hearty drink

■ People who regularly drink at least 2½ pints of beer or more than half a bottle of wine a day halve their risk of a heart attack, according to a new study. It found that people who drink three or more American-size drinks a day, containing 40gm of alcohol, had less chance of suffering a heart attack compared with those who had less than one drink a month..... **Page 8**

SIMON WALKER



The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra rehearsing Paterson's 'Little Red Riding Hood' at the Henry Wood Hall in London on the day the Arts Council, after a six-hour meeting, settled the funding battle between the three London orchestras. Story, page 6

BUSINESS

Economy: Britain's core inflation rate fell to its lowest level since 1967 last month, confirming that the end of recession has not had any impact on price pressures and leaving room for rate cuts if they are needed to keep growth..... **Page 23**

Jobs: Four hundred jobs were cut in the steel industry and a further 700 threatened in engineering as the Government announces the latest unemployment figures nationally..... **Page 23**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 30.4 to 3278.8. Sterling's trade-weighted index slipped from 81.7 to 81.5 after a fall from $1.4892 to $1.4850 and from DM2.5519 to DM2.5468..... **Page 26**

SPORT

Yachting: A row has erupted over time compensations awarded to Winston and La Poste for turning back to assist the stricken Brooksfield in the Round the World Race. The decision has elevated Winston to second place in the Whitbread 60 class..... **Page 44**

Cricket: England A continued their winning ways in South Africa with a 103-run victory over an Eastern Province Invitation XI but may lose Martin Bicknell..... **Page 40**

Ice skating: Katerina Witt, the former Olympic figure skating champion, will attempt to qualify for the Winter Games in Lillehammer when she takes part in a competition in Herne, Germany .. **Page 44**

FEATURES

Greeting cards: Hard as it is to believe, the annual ordeal of Christmas cards did not exist 150 years ago. Julia Llewellyn Smith reports on who sends what to whom..... **Page 14**

Medical emergency? With eight million admissions annually to British hospitals, the problem is not how to stop medical accidents, but how to reduce them..... **Page 15**

BOOKS

Words matter: Jean Aitchison on the descent of language; plus Michael Hofmann on Russian poetry, Peter Brookes on cartoons, Daniel Johnson on reference guides and Mark Le Fanu on films **Pages 34, 35**

ARTS

Mel misses the mark: Endless flat jokes about private parts, laborious displays of bad taste, and limp parodies of other movies: that is Geoff Brown's verdict on Mel Brooks's latest film, *Robin Hood: Men in Tights*..... **Page 31**

Dark comedy: Alan Ayckbourn is well known for tackling subjects not often associated with comedy, but here he outdoes himself, writes Benedict Nightingale, of *Wildest Dreams*..... **Page 33**

Noble words: On the day that his new *Macbeth* opens, Adrian Noble, artistic director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, proclaims the RSC to be the last great classical theatre ensemble..... **Page 31**

PEOPLE IN THE TIMES



Liam Brady, former Arsenal and Republic of Ireland footballer, has been appointed manager of Brighton. He recently quit as Celtic manager **Page 44**



Alice Clover, 13, killed herself because she feared she would be expelled from her Norfolk boarding school after she was caught smoking **Page 8**



Dr John Habgood, the Archbishop of York, believes that sovereigns are not required to be saints and that an adulterer can be king

THE TIMES TOMORROW

Games for the mind

■ Diverting children from mindless computer games to software that teaches them something is the dream of many parents. But is most educational software worth having?

Gearing up for big sales

■ Car makers are gearing up for big sales. Kevin Eason reports on the dozens of new models being launched into British showrooms

Who's got the last laugh now?

■ Benny Green analyses the genius of Ira Gershwin, whose song-lyrics are celebrated in a new complete edition

TV LISTINGS

Michael Ignatieff pays a timely visit to Northern Ireland to explore the nationalism of the Protestant loyalists in *Blood and Belonging* (BBC2, 9.30pm)..... **Page 43**

OPINION

Beautiful victory

The agreement reached in Geneva yesterday opens the road to a sharp rise in international trade. It should bring decent livelihoods to millions..... **Page 17**

Carnival of reaction

John Major and Albert Reynolds deserve congratulation for labouring through the treacherous straits of Anglo-Irish politics to reach this statement of principle. Though not in itself a peace treaty, it may yet be the basis for one..... **Page 17**

Sounds of retreat

The Arts Council's decision on the London orchestras, announced after some of the most disagreeable months in British musical history, is a predictable piece of bureaucratic fudge..... **Page 17**

COLUMNS

ENOCH POWELL

Forget all about the Irish Republic's constitution, which claims Northern Ireland as part of that state. There is nothing to stop China asserting that Britain is a province of China; but if that absurd and impertinent claim were given up, that would not entitle China to annex East Anglia..... **Page 16**

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Vladimir Zhirinovsky has become the leader of the largest party in the new parliament, but the comparison with Hitler is a dangerous one. In 1933, Hitler took power in one of the most advanced of industrial societies. Modern Russia is not a comparable power to the Germany of the 1930s in industry, technology or armed force..... **Page 16**

LETTERS

The UN is accused of failing to protect Sarajevo..... **Page 17**

THE PAPERS

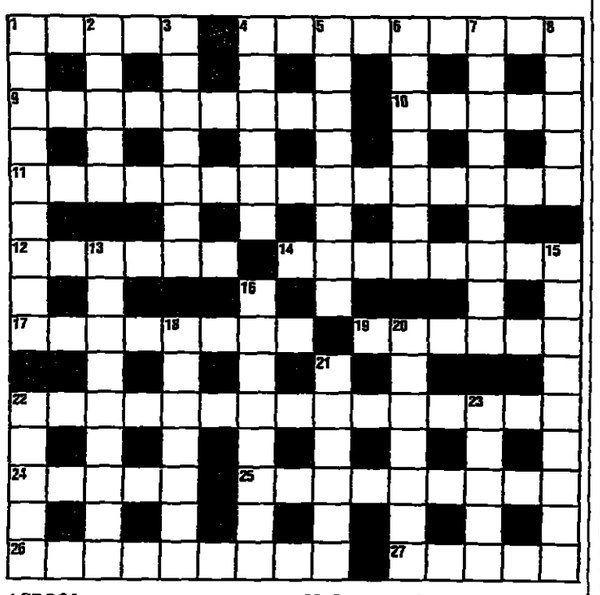
Because of Gatt, trade blocs will not emerge. National borders will not become walls ... Instead, the pace of economic globalisation will accelerate

— The Wall Street Journal

Though trade officials and special interests are concentrating on the arcane minutiae of the agreement, it is the world's consumers who would benefit most from a liberalisation of trade

— Los Angeles Times

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,415



ACROSS

1 Mark of silver in the case of Holmes (5).
4 Thrill to get going on a bike? (4-5).
9 Lower oneself in retreat (5,4).
10 Novelist of the rising generation (5).
11 It helps to keep the weeds at bay (9-6).
12 An indication of choice is possible in prayer (6).
14 Crew has taken in fishing rig (5-3).
17 Boundary take over by nocturnal activist (8).
19 To tell all could be a clever move — no copyright though (6).
22 Term used by Lady Astor we hear (10,5).
24 Raise rent for inn (5).
25 Governor demonstrates how a gun recoils before elevation (9).
26 Firm wound-up — members involved approved (9).
27 Bowls for the county (5).

DOWN

1 Setting for new clock in the City (9).
2 Topping recording worth copying (5).
3 Stop — amber — go in the right order (7).
4 As some would say, intricate (6).
5 Deceive over temporary housing for constituents (8).
6 One modest and secure in Shakespeare (7).
7 Game bid is more than enough (9).
8 Formidable opponent of course from Asia (5).
13 In the last month no spirit of unseemliness (9).
15 Old theatres where charges could be daunting (9).
16 No money and worried about being nicked (8).
18 Permit to climb in the gloaming — dodgy? (7).
20 Start work? It's the way to force someone's hand (7).
21 Lingered to avoid being frozen (6).
22 Coward found it extraordinarily potent when cheap (5).
23 Lay to rest in Tintern Abbey. (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 44

Solution to Puzzle No 19,414

A	N	T	H	R	O	P	O	L	O	G	Y			
S	U	I		O		I		O	B		S			
S	O	N	O	F	A	G	U	N		T	W	E	R	P
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R	U	S	H	E	S		A	E	S	T	H	E	T	E
E		B			R				M		A			
R	A	N	C	I	D		G	I	R	L	H	O	O	D
		O		R		I		E		A		T		
S	T	A	N	D	I	N	G		A	N	T	H	E	M
A		H			T			C				A		
D	I	S	C	R	E	E	T		B	E	F	E	L	L
I		A		E		R		G	J		X		I	
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			R	O	L	L	E	R	S	K	A	T	E	S

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc's,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

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AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Northern Scotland and the isles will be very cold, with the wind increasing to gale force and frequent showers of sleet and snow. The rest of the UK will be cold and windy. There will be some sunshine everywhere and many southern areas will be sunny for much of the morning, but there will be showers. Outlook: cold and windy tomorrow with showers, mostly in north and east. Saturday will be milder, with rain or drizzle at times.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun, sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud, r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	12	54	f	Madrid	9	48	s
Akrotiri	17	63	s	Majorca	13	55	s
Alex'dria	19	66	c	Malaga	14	57	s
Algiers	15	59	c	Malta	19	66	s
Amst'dm	3	37	d	Melb'rne	19	66	f
Athens	18	64	f	Mexico C*	17	63	s
Bahrain	24	75	s	Miami*	27	81	s
Bangkok	30	86	f	Milan	7	45	f
Barbados*	29	84	f	Montreal*	-2	36	f
Barcelona	13	55	s	Moscow	1	34	r
Beirut	17	63	s	Munich	-1	45	s
Belgrade	10	50	r	Nairobi	24	75	c
Berlin	3	37	c	Naples	16	61	f
Bermuda*	30	68	f	N Delhi	18	64	s
Biarritz	12	54	f	N York*	9	48	c
Borde'x	11	52	r	Nice	12	54	s
Brussels	3	37	c	Oslo	0	32	sn
Budapst	5	41	c	Paris	7	45	c
B.Aires*	20	68	f	Peking	0	32	s
Cairo	19	66	s	Perth	30	86	s
Cape Tn	29	84	s	Prague	5	43	f
Chicago*	6	43	c	Reykjavik	-2	28	f
Ch'church	17	63	c	Rhodes	17	63	s
Cologne	4	39	s	Rio de J	37	99	f
C'phagn	1	34	c	Riyadh	24	76	s
Corfu	17	63	f	Rome	15	59	c
Dublin	5	41	r	Salzburg	1	45	f
Dubrowik	15	59	c	S F'risco*	13	55	r
Faro	14	57	s	Santiago*	23	73	f
Florence	12	54	f	Seoul	-3	27	c
Frankfurt	4	39	s	Sing'por	33	91	c
Funchal	16	61	c	St'kholm	-3	27	f
Geneva	7	45	f	Strasb'rg	-1	30	f
Gibraltar	14	57	s	Sydney	30	86	f
Helsinki	-2	28	c	Tangier	14	57	s
Hong K	13	55	f	Tel Aviv	17	63	f
Innsbrck	2	36	f	Tenerife	18	64	f
Istanbul	12	54	f	Tokyo	8	46	s
Jo'burg*	27	81	f	Toronto*	6	43	s
Karachi*	27	81	s	Tunis	17	63	s
L.Palmes	18	64	f	Valencia	14	57	s
Le Touet	7	45	f	Vanc'ver*	7	45	c
Lisbon	13	55	f	Venice	6	43	fg
Locarno	6	43	c	Vienna	6	43	f
L.Angels*	14	57	s	Warsaw	2	36	c
Luxembg	0	32	sn	Wash'ton*	9	48	f
Luxor	21	70	s	Wellington	18	64	c
				Zurich	5	41	f

* denotes figures are latest available

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 7C (45F); min 6pm to 6am, 5C (41F). Humidity: 6pm, 72 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.17in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 4.2hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6pm, 980.7 millibars, falling
1,000 millibars = 29.53in

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Tuesday: Highest day temp: Isles of Scilly, 9C (48F); lowest day max: Cellarhead, Staffordshire, 1C (34F); highest rainfall: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway, 1.11in; highest sunshine: Guernsey, Channel Islands, 6.2hr

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 6C (43F); min 6pm to 6am, 1C (34F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.29in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 3.9hr.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 4C (39F); min 6pm to 6am, 3C (37F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.39in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, nil.

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	-	3	37	rain
Anglesey	-	0.15	8	46	rain
Aviemore	-	0.39	3	37	snow
Belfast	-	0.20	6	43	sleet
Birmingham	-	-	3	37	snow
Bognor Regis	5.2	0.02	5	41	sunny
Bournemouth	2.6	-	7	45	bright
Bristol	0.8	-	5	41	bright
Buxton	-	0.06	1	34	snow
Cardiff	0.4	-	8	43	cloudy
Clacton	3.7	0.02	4	39	sunny
Cromer	1.6	0.06	-	x	xbright
Eastbourne	5.9	-	5	41	sunny
Edinburgh	-	0.14	5	41	rain
Eskdalemuir	-	1.11	4	39	snow
Exmouth	3.1	-	7	45	bright
Falmouth	1.0	-	9	48	cloudy
Folkestone	5.3	0.15	5	41	sunny
Guernsey	6.2	0.18	-	x	xsunny
Hastings	5.9	-	6	43	sunny
Hunstanton	-	0.06	3	37	dull
Isle of Man	-	0.28	9	48	rain
Jersey	3.0	0.30	7	45	bright
Kinloss	-	-	5	41	rain
Leeds	-	0.02	3	37	rain
Lerwick	-	0.37	4	39	sleet
Littlehampton	5.1	0.01	6	43	sunny
Liverpool	-	0.12	4	39	rain
London	4.7	-	5	41	sunny
Lowestoft	2.1	0.07	6	43	bright
Manchester	-	0.01	3	37	sleet
Margate	x	0.04	5	41	sunny
Minehead	x	-	6	43	bright
Morecambe	-	0.40	4	39	rain
Newcastle	-	0.02	3	37	sleet
Nottingham	0.3	0.01	2	36	snow
Penzance	2.2	0.01	9	48	cloudy
Plymouth	2.4	-	8	46	bright
Saunton Snd	-	0.04	7	45	cloudy
Scarborough	-	0.01	2	36	cloudy
Scilly Isles	1.9	0.02	9	48	sunny
Shanklin	4.7	-	5	41	sunny
Southend	4.9	0.07	9	48	bright
Southsea	4.7	-	6	43	sunny
Stornoway	-	0.41	7	45	hail
Swanage	4.7	-	7	45	sunny
Teignmouth	3.5	0.01	8	46	sunny
Tenby	-	0.06	9	48	cloudy
Tiree	-	0.41	8	46	rain
Torquay	3.7	0.05	7	45	sunny
Weymouth	3.8	0.01	7	45	sunny
Wick	-	0.02	5	41	rain

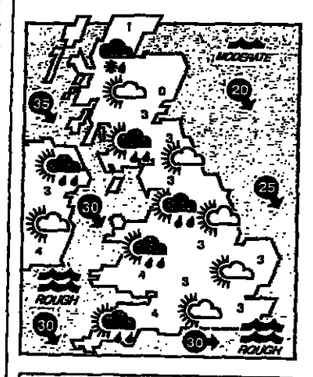
x denotes not available

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.34	2.14
Austria Sch	18.91	17.41
Belgium Fr	56.41	52.01
Canada $	2.095	1.935
Cyprus Cypt	0.792	0.742
Denmark Kr	10.59	9.790
Finland Mkk	9.25	8.480
France Fr	9.16	8.46
Germany Dm	2.70	2.49
Greece Dr	386.50	361.50
Hong Kong $	12.15	11.15
Ireland Pt	1.10	1.02
Italy Lira	2611.00	2455.00
Japan Yen	180.00	160.50
Malta	0.625	0.570
Netherlands Gld	3.002	2.772
Norway Kr	11.65	10.86
Portugal Esc	270.50	252.00
South Africa Rd	5.75	4.85
Spain Pta	217.00	203.00
Sweden Kr	13.10	12.30
Switzerland Fr	2.31	2.13
Turkey Lira	212209.0	202209.0
USA $	1.595	1.455

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

AM



PM



LIGHTING-UP TIMES

London 4.22 pm to 7.31 am
Bristol 4.32 pm to 7.40 am
Edinburgh 4.08 pm to 8.09 am
Manchester 4.20 pm to 7.50 am
Penzance 4.50 pm to 7.46 am

Sun rises: 8.01 am — Sun sets: 3.52 pm
Moon sets 7.44 pm — Moon rises 9.57 am

Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1989: The hours of darkness are defined in these Regulations as the period between half an hour after sunset and half an hour before sunrise.

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun

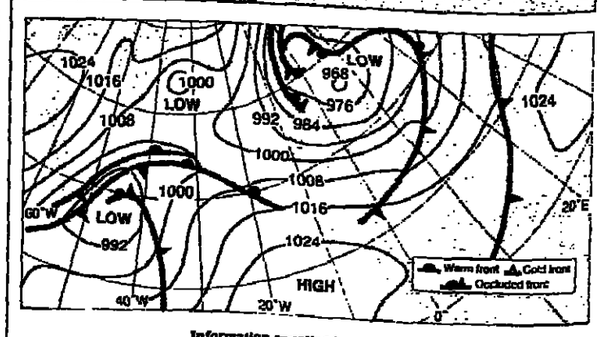
	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	3	37	sl	Guernsey	6	43	f
B'mingham	5	41	s	Inverness	1	34	s
Blackpool	6	43	f	Jersey	7	45	c
Bristol	6	43	f	London	6	43	f
Cardiff	7	45	h	M'chster	5	41	f
Edinburgh	3	37	f	Newcastle	5	41	s
Glasgow	3	37	r	R'nldsway	6	43	f

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	3.24	7.1	3.49	7.4
Aberdeen	3.0	4.2	3.1	4.4
Avonmouth	8.58	13.3	9.21	12.9
Belfast	12.35	3.5	12.49	3.7
Cardiff	8.43	12.3	9.6	11.9
Devonport	7.31	5.6	7.56	5.2
Dover	12.27	6.7	12.48	6.5
Falmouth	7.1	5.4	7.26	5.0
Glasgow	2.22	4.7	2.39	5.2
Harwich	1.16	4.0	1.41	4.1
Holyhead			12.1	5.7
Hull	8.5	7.2	8.11	7.5
Ilfracombe	7.41	9.3	8.2	8.9
King's Lynn	8.15	5.6	4.37	5.5
Leith	4.28	5.6	4.37	5.5

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Liverpool	12.41	9.3	12.59	9.5
Lowestoft	11.22	2.4	11.18	2.6
Margate	1.26	4.8	2.1	4.8
Milford Haven	7.57	7.1	7.9	6.7
Newquay	6.48	7.1	7.9	6.7
Oban	7.17	4.1	7.28	3.6
Penzance	6.32	5.7	6.59	5.3
Portland	8.19	2.2	8.42	1.9
Portsmouth	12.51	4.9	1.3	4.8
Shoreham	12.38	6.2	12.48	6.2
Southampton	12.24	4.6	12.34	4.5
Swansea	7.54	9.6	8.16	9.1
Tees	5.53	5.4	6.30	5.5
W'ton-on-Nze	1.9	4.2	1.37	4.3

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office

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هكذا من الأصل



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Return of the German ice queen

PETER BROOKES ON CARTOONS
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THE TIMES

THURSDAY DECEMBER 16 1993

Gatt tariff cuts give boost to many key British industries

BY DEREK HARRIS

WIDESPREAD benefits for several British industries are expected by the Trade and Industry Department and the Gatt secretariat to result from tariff cuts under yesterday's Gatt deal.

Scotch whisky producers, which export goods worth £2 billion a year and are thus among Britain's top five exporting sectors, should benefit from prices 30 per cent lower in Japan, 25 per cent lower in Singapore and 20 per cent lower in New Zealand.

In chemicals, on which tariffs are reduced or eliminated, price cuts will amount to £22 million on exports currently running at £1.2 billion a year. Tariffs on British pharmaceutical exports to the US, Japan and Canada are eliminated. This will be worth £31 million on total exports to the three countries, which have stood at £540 million.

In textiles, 40 per cent American duties on wool have been cut to 26 per cent. British clothing should sell into the US 20 per cent cheaper. US duties of 30 per cent on women's suits have been much reduced. British producers will gain from cuts in tariffs on many components sourced abroad, one example being a big cut on the 14 per cent impost on semiconductors. Paper tariffs have been largely eliminated in the EC, US, Japan and Canada. Benefits will go to manufacturers and users of newsprint, tissue paper and writing paper.

Services, including financial services, are the subject of agreement for the first time. The trade agreement is seen as a foundation for liberalisation in national markets for telecommunications and financial and professional services. Services account for 23 per cent of UK trade.

British banks, insurance companies and other financial services will have the same guarantees in Canada as US and Canadian financial institutions do. Banks and other financial institutions will be able to do business without risk of discriminatory measures in Switzerland, Australia, Sweden and several developing countries.

A rush of imports of consumer electronics items such as video recorders was discounted by the Trade Department, which expects tariff reductions to affect prices by at most 3 per cent. But in textiles and clothing, an imports increase is seen as inevitable, though British manufacturers will have a better chance of improving their own substantial exports. Application of harmonised tariffs to speciality chemicals — as with agrichemicals, some food processing chemicals and catalysts — could mean much bigger sales to the US, which has hitherto levied a 20 per cent tariff on them.

Scotch producers expect a short-term gain in sales from implementation of a "zero for zero" agreement, recently reached in Tokyo, which will remove import duties from Scotch in seven countries. The Scotch Whisky Association said: "Now the climate is right to look seriously at negotiations on non-tariff restrictions." Scotch suffers from various forms of discrimination in about 130 countries.

Despite the difficulties, the value of Scotch exports has been rising by about 5 per cent annually for some years, while the sales trend in the UK has been down. Tariffs on consumer electronics vary from nil (on radios) to 14 per cent (on video recorders and colour televisions). With imports from non-EC and non-EFTA sources running at close to 50 per cent of sales, consumers should, after an interval, see some price reductions. Richard Norman, chairman of the British Radio and Electrical Equipment Manufacturers Association, said: "The tariffs average is about 7 per cent but at the higher end I will be surprised if there is a reduction of more than 3 per cent." That would mean that the price of a video recorder costing £300 might fall by barely £10. There is a 4.9 per cent tariff on computers, so the effect of a 30 per cent tariff cut on prices paid by the consumer will be minimal.

Colin Purvis, the general secretary of the Apparel, Knitting and Textiles Alliance, said it was almost certain that imports would increase their market share in the UK. Imports, including those from other EC countries, account for 43 per cent of UK sales; importers from outside the EC account for about 35 per cent. He said: "That situation is only acceptable if, in return, our manufacturers get better access elsewhere." The alliance was looking for amelioration of both tariffs and non-tariff barriers. First indications were that this had been achieved in some important foreign markets. Import quotas on textiles and clothing, imposed under the Multi-Fibre Arrangement since 1974, are expected to be phased out.

Steel tariff changes could open up tariff-protected markets such as India, South Africa and Turkey, said British Steel. But there were questions over whether reductions would be carried through to all Gatt signatories and whether some steel products might not be covered.

Deal agreed, page 1
Economic boost, page 12
Monster treaty, page 13
Diary, page 16
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Trade breakthrough page 24
Pennington, page 25



French farmers from the Gironde, in south-west France, celebrate the trade deal with a bottle of Grand Cru Gatt wine made for the occasion

Stimulus for UK, but not yet

FROM COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT, IN GENEVA

COMPLETION of the world trade talks promises a substantial economic bonus for Britain, but not immediately.

The European Community is widely forecast to be the region likely to gain the most economic benefit from the deal. With exports accounting for about a third of output, Britain should be one of the leading countries drawing benefit from the 1 per cent boost to world growth, which some forecasters expect the Uruguay Round agreement to deliver.

The more optimistic City forecasters have predicted that the trade deal could deliver as much as 2 per cent to world growth, a development that could only enhance Britain's trade performance.

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) applauded the successful outcome to the Uruguay Round, saying that it was convinced the results would prove a "powerful stimulus" to the world economy for the rest of the 1990s and have an "immediate effect" of speeding recovery from recession and unemployment in many regions.

Hari Shankar Singhania, the ICC president, said the outcome was a "major step in favour of free enterprise, open markets and multilateralism in trade". He said that even though differences in key areas were left unresolved, it did not detract from the significance of what had been achieved for the world economy.

Although Sir Leon Brittan, the European Commissioner for Trade, and Mickey Kantor, the US trade representative were unable to secure a last minute deal in the key financial services area, the Gatt secretariat insisted that other areas of the package, such as audio visual, another British forte, and maritime transport had not been removed from the deal.

Fears that the Americans, world leaders in the service sector, could hurt City companies by resisting proposals to open up its huge domestic market in financial services are probably unfounded. Trade officials said that the Washington stance is directed more at the Japanese and Far Eastern markets than at the EC.

As the world's biggest exporter, the EC, with an annual $565 billion of exports to non-Community countries, equivalent to about a fifth of the world market, should enjoy a big fillip from the Gatt deal.

Steel industry loses 400 jobs

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

FOUR hundred jobs were cut in the steel industry yesterday and a further 700 threatened in engineering as the Government today announces the latest unemployment figures.

UES Holdings, jointly owned by British Steel and GKN, announced that 400 jobs would go at UES Steels, the European Union's largest producer of engineering steels. The cuts, which the company said would take place "as early as possible" next year, will be concentrated in functional and technical support services.

UES, which employs more than 4,200 at its steel plants in Sheffield and Rotherham, blamed continuing trading losses on over-capacity in Europe, made worse by the "illegal subsidies" paid to many of its European competitors.

Seven hundred jobs were put in jeopardy when administrative receivers were appointed to rail contractor RFS Industries Group, the 1987 management buyout of British Rail's former Doncaster wagonworks. Richard Rees, the receiver, from the accountant Price Waterhouse, said jobs were clearly at risk although he was anxious to explore the prospects of keeping the business together. The company was already planning 200 redundancies in early 1994 because of reduced business levels.

Potential buyers had withdrawn because of the company's "extensive" liabilities, but Mr Rees said that the freeing of the company of these liabilities through receivership might now be "the only means of rescue".

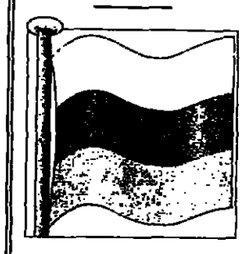
RFS supplied the refurbished trains on London Underground's Circle Line and recently won similar contracts for work on the Jubilee Line.

Ministers hope that the latest unemployment figures to be announced this morning by David Hunt, the employment secretary, will maintain what they now insist is a clear downward trend.

BUSINESS EDITOR
Robert Ballantyne

BUSINESS TODAY

ABYSS

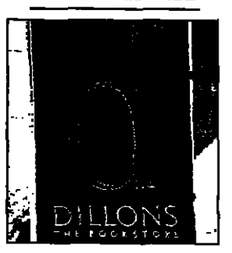


Russia has been marched to the brink of an abyss by the communists, and has now taken a step forward
Page 27

BLACK HOLES

Acquisitive companies face tough curbs from the Accounting Standards Board on the way they account for their purchases
Page 24

SORRY TALES



Dillons, Ryman and Athena group Pentos warned investors of heavy losses. Dorling Kindersley issued a second profits warning
Page 26

BETTER STORY

South Western Electricity is raising its half year dividend by 18.6 per cent and Northern Electric 17.5 per cent
Page 25

Core inflation at 26-year low raises rate hopes

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S core inflation rate fell to its lowest since 1967 last month, confirming that the end of recession has not had any impact on price pressures. It also leaves room for further interest rate cuts if they are needed to maintain growth in an economy that will be battered by tax increases over the next two years.

Largely on optimism about lower interest rates, the stock market surged to yet another record high, the FT-SE 100 index closing up 30.4 at 3,278.8. Sterling was a touch lower, the trade-weighted index finishing at 81.5 compared with 81.7 on Tuesday.

The Central Statistical Office reported yesterday that the underlying rate of inflation, excluding mortgage interest payments — the most important measure because it is targeted by the Government — fell to an annual 2.5 per cent from 2.8 per cent in October, the lowest level since 1967. The headline rate was unchanged at 1.4 per cent.

The CSO also released better than expected retail sales figures for November, showing a 0.4 per cent rise compared with October and a 3.9 per cent increase on a year earlier. Over the past three months, a better guide to the trend, sales improved by 0.9 per cent compared with the previous three months.

In response to the inflation figures, the Confederation of British Industry said: "The inflation outlook into the new year remains good and leaves the way open for a further cut in interest rates."

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, told the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee that inflationary pressures were now "pretty well under control" but said the Government would take no risks. He also remarked that the "recovery is established and strong enough" not to be damaged by next year's tax increases, suggesting that, on current evidence, he is not gunning for another base rate cut.

The UK government bond market actually moved lower despite the very favourable inflation figures because of the strength in retail sales which, dealers argued, dented the chances of another rate cut. Others, however, continue to believe rates will come down again against a low-inflation background to offset next year's massive tax increases.

Roger Bootle, chief economist of Midland Bank, said there was even more good news to come on the inflation front, with world oil prices dropping sharply and, with supermarket price wars expected to continue, more falls in food prices. Midland is forecasting retail inflation, excluding both mortgage interest payments and rises in indirect taxes (the so-called RPIY measure the Bank of England is emphasising), to end 1994 below 2 per cent.

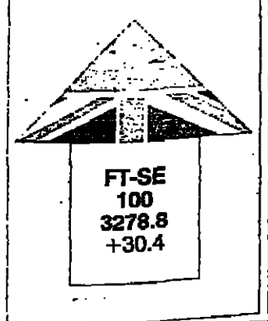
Although the Bank is looking at RPIY, the Government's 1-4 per cent target applies to the measure that excludes only mortgages and this will start rising in December's figures, reported in January, as the tax-raising measures of two Budgets start to hit. This, as John Shepperd of Yamaichi International Europe, said, means the window of opportunity for cutting rates is narrow. "The Government will not want to send the wrong signal to wage bargainers by cutting rates when core inflation is rising," he said. "The message is cut and cut now."

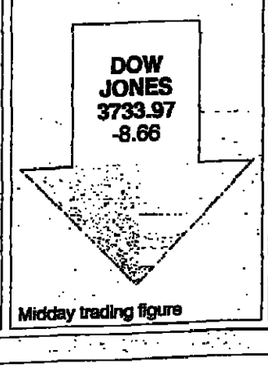
It remains to be seen how much tax effects — expected to add 0.4 per cent to December's all-items index — will be offset by further falls in prices in the real economy in an era that has seen heavy discounting throughout the year and even pre-Christmas sales to attract shoppers.

November's retail prices data were helped considerably by sharp drops in the prices of food, second-hand cars and petrol.

Stock market, page 26

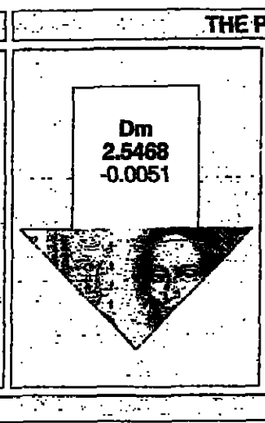
STOCK MARKET

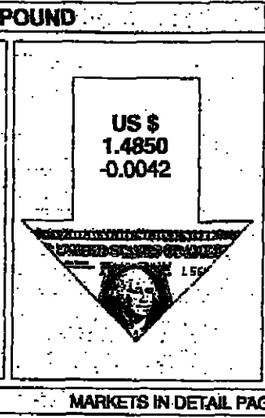




Midday trading figure

THE POUND





GOLD

$385.85 per oz.

BRENT CRUDE

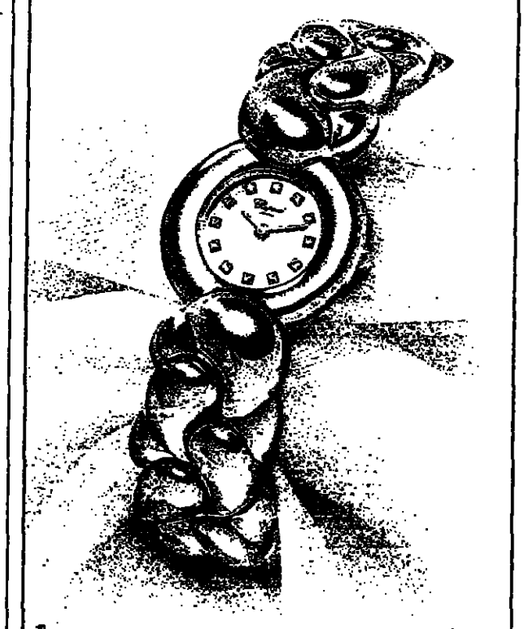
$13.80 per barrel (Feb)

6pm

LONDON CLOSING PRICES

MARKETS IN DETAIL PAGE 26, SHARE PRICES PAGE 29

Chopard
GENÈVE
depuis 1860



La Collection
CAŠMIR

Modèle déposé
K&K ©



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and leading watch-specialists throughout the United Kingdom.

Final act of Gatt negotiations leads to global free trade breakthrough

Deal promises $300bn boost

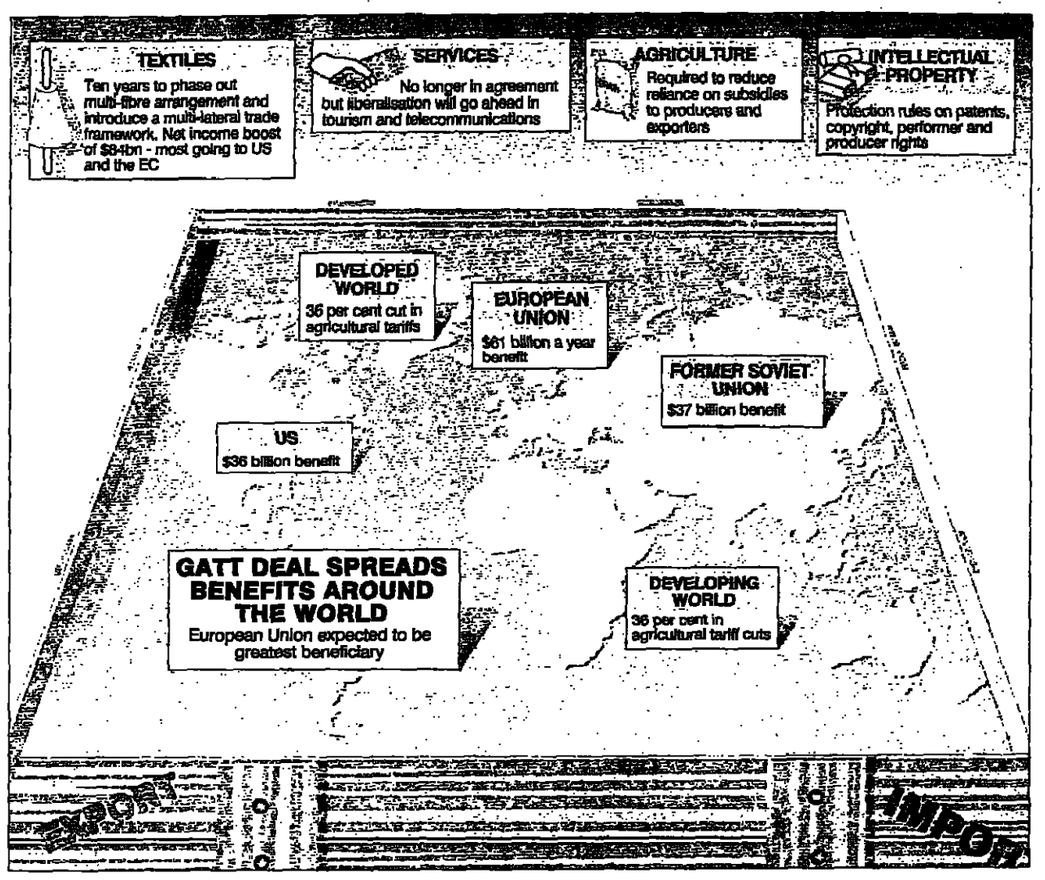
By Colin Narbrough

THE final act of the Uruguay Round negotiations has produced the biggest-ever agreement on opening markets. It will give the world economy a boost of up to $300 billion a year in its first decade. The world trade agreement, the text of which was agreed yesterday by all 117 participating nations and organisations after seven years of talks, is scheduled to be signed by ministers next April, but will come into force on July 1, 1995.

The greatest beneficiary is expected to be the EC. It is estimated that the Community will enjoy a total net rise in income of $61 billion a year, reflecting Europe's strong export industries. America and the countries of the former Soviet Union are expected to benefit by $36 billion and $37 billion respectively, according to official projections. The round could produce an extra 460,000 jobs in the EC by 2005, according to analysts.

A pioneering Gatt package, which includes trade in services for the first time, also extends Gatt's multilateral trade rules to agricultural trade generally. Agriculture was subject to Gatt disciplines on only a minor scale before. Most important, the agreement provides for the establishment of a multilateral trade organisation (MTO) to replace the long-standing but interim Gatt arrangement.

The MTO, armed with a tough mandate to police breaches of fair and free trading, and to speed up the process of solving trade disputes, is expected to benefit international trade relations. The MTO should help to limit tit-for-tat trade disputes, especially between America and the EC and America and Japan. America has agreed to bring its trade disciplines into line with MTO rules.



TARIFF CUTS

CUTS in tariffs averaging 36 per cent on industrial products, Gatt's main focus prior to the Uruguay Round, will bring the average imposition on imports to 3 per cent, from 4.7 per cent. Tariff "peaks" will also be cut. Here, the developing countries have made a particularly important contribution.

AGRICULTURE

ACCOUNTING for about 11 per cent of total world trade, agriculture will be required to reduce its reliance on subsidies to domestic producers and to exporters. Where market access is concerned, non-tariff measures will be replaced by tariffs. Tariffs will be cut by an average of 36 per cent for the developed countries and by 24 per cent in the developing world. The reductions will be phased in over six years for the former and ten years for the latter. Annual support for farmers will be cut by 20 per cent over six years, but direct income support will still be allowed. The global income benefit is estimated at $73 billion a year: the EC is expected to be the biggest single beneficiary with a gain of $30 billion.

TEXTILES

THE developing and developed countries fought bitterly over textiles and clothing. The agreement provides for a ten-year period during which goods will be integrated into the multilateral trade framework. A simultaneous programme will liberalise import quotas set under the Multi-Fibre Arrangement, which disappears. The textiles and clothing regime is expected to give a net income boost of $84 billion, mostly for America and the EC.

SERVICES

THESE are likely to benefit less than had been expected, after the failure of the EC and America to agree on financial services, audio-visual, maritime transport and aircraft subsidies. They are not included in the agreement in any substantial form. The aim is to incorporate them later, for services liberalisation had been expected to add $30 billion to world net income. Tourism and telecommunications will be liberalised.

INTELLECTUAL

THE most comprehensive protection rules ever will cover intellectual property in areas such as patents, copyright, performer and producer rights on sound recording, trademarks, indications of geographical origin, industrial designs, and integrated circuits.

It is almost impossible to quantify the economic benefit these will bring, but the advanced industrial countries estimate that theft of intellectual property by pirate organisations in developing countries costs them billions of dollars in lost revenue each year.

ANTI-DUMPING

RULES against dumping are to be tightened. The main aim is greater clarity and more detail, determine better when goods have been dumped. Cases in which less than 2 per cent of an export price, or of an import volume, is involved, will not be considered dumping. Deals between Gatt members on market access had to be submitted by yesterday.

SAFEGUARDS

SAFEGUARD actions will be subject to a four-year limit. Governments will also be obliged to liberalise their markets progressively while employing safeguards and to limit any re-imposition of such restraints to trade.

PROCUREMENT

AN ANNUAL market of $200 billion will be opened up to international competition. Existing access to central government contracts will be widened, to cover contracts from local government and public utilities.

THIRD WORLD

DEVELOPING economies get special consideration, in recognition of the role that subsidies can play. Countries with gross domestic products of less than $1,000 per head will be exempted from the prohibition on export subsidies.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Heseltine decision on Gas expected today

BRITISH Gas expects to learn today of its likely future. It believes Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, will announce his long-awaited response to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's enquiry into the gas industry. Senior British Gas managers and independent gas suppliers expect the Government to reject some of the MMC's main recommendations, particularly the proposal that British Gas should be broken up. But Mr Heseltine is still thought likely to promote competition in the gas market.

British Gas is irritated by the delay in the Government's announcement, and will be furious if no decision is announced today because of problems with the parliamentary timetable.

BA in court plea

BRITISH Airways has asked an American court to dismiss an anti-trust action, brought by Virgin Atlantic, that threatens the British flag carrier with up to $1 billion in potential damages. Richard Branson's airline filed the action in New York in October as part of a continuing campaign between the two rivals. Virgin is claiming $325 million in damages. A US court would treble any award. BA is seeking to have the case dismissed on various grounds and argues that US courts have no jurisdiction to try a "quintessentially English dispute".

US deal for Bowthorpe

BOWTHORPE, the electronics group, has agreed to acquire Kaye Instruments of the US for $17.2 million in cash. The consideration includes a payment of $1.5 million for covenants not to compete. Bowthorpe said completion was expected before the end of the year. For the year ended January 2, Kaye reported a pre-tax profit of $800,000 after deducting non-recurring costs of $400,000. Bowthorpe said there is a condition in the agreement that profit for the 11 months to December 4, 1993, shall not be less than $1.6 million before the deduction of non-recurring costs.

Amber Day departure

THE chief executive of Amber Day, the discount stores company, is the latest director to quit. David Thompson, who stood in as chairman following the upheavals when Philip Green, the founder, was forced out in September 1992, will stay with the group until the end of April. Mr Thompson was unwilling to move to Glasgow where much of the group's administration is based, Amber Day said. Yesterday Peter Carr, executive chairman, said the group was in talks about a possible rights issue to shore up its balance sheet and had plans to expand.

Eurotunnel approval

EUROTUNNEL yesterday won shareholder approval to issue up to 192 million new shares in a cash call between now and May 6 next year. The company is seeking another £1 billion of funding, of which it is understood it aims to raise half by means of a rights issue, to cover cost increases and a slower than expected build-up of services. Sir Alastair Morton, chairman, told an extraordinary meeting of shareholders, which lasted just 10 minutes, that the authority to issue the above number of shares did not indicate that it would be the number issued.

Capital Radio deal

CAPITAL Radio and GWR, the commercial radio operators, have agreed an exchange of shares and radio franchises to enhance the ability of both groups to take advantage from any upturn in advertising. Capital is to sell Mercia Sound, Radio Trent and Leicester Sound to GWR in exchange for £4.8 million in cash and 1 million ordinary shares in GWR. The deal will lift Capital's GWR stake from 4.2 to almost 20 per cent. GWR has also bought Beacon Broadcasting, for £3.7 million. GWR is to fund the deals through a £8.7 million placing and open offer.

Tempus, page 27

Leeds scraps accounts

THE Leeds Permanent, the fifth largest building society, has followed the lead of National & Provincial, its erstwhile merger partner, and announced it is to scrap obsolete savings accounts. Customers will be transferred into accounts paying better rates of interest. The Leeds has balances of about £450 million in the accounts, which are closed to new business, and the transfer will be made in batches over three months from February 14. The first conversions will include the 9th and 10th issues of High Return Access and the 5th issue of the High Return Option.

VW closes Seat plant

THE biggest ever single closure in Spain took place yesterday when the regional Catalan government approved Volkswagen's closure plan for its Seat factory in the Zona Franca of Barcelona. The outdated plant will close immediately with the loss of 9,000 jobs. 40 per cent of its workers, following a £135 million redundancy deal. But Seat's production at nearby Martorell and in Pamplona will continue. Volkswagen has promised the Catalan government that it will inject another 120 billion pesetas (£577 million) into Martorell by 1997 in exchange for the closure.

Kunick bounces back

KUNICK, the leisure group, is to seek a listing for Goldsborough, the nursing homes concern in which it has 50 per cent. The flotation will take place in the first half of 1994. Kunick reported profits before tax of £4.8 million for the year to September 25, recovering from losses of £11.8 million in the previous 12 months when the company took total exceptional charges of £12.2 million against restructuring costs. Profits before exceptional items were £5.1 million, against £400,000. Earnings were 0.02p a share, compared with losses of 7.34p. The final dividend is again passed.

Advertising advance lifts Mail

By Philip Pangalos

RECORD advertising revenue and higher circulation of its two national newspapers helped Daily Mail and General Trust, the media group that owns Associated Newspapers, to increase full-year profits by 74 per cent.

The pre-tax figure jumped to £66.7 million in the year to October 3, up from £38.4 million, though the previous year's figure included property provisions of £26.5 million. Stripping those out, underlying trading profits rose by 12 per cent, to £89.1 million. Turnover grew to £683.9 million (£664.3 million).

The Associated Newspapers operation, which publishes the *Daily Mail* and the *Mail on Sunday*, as well as London's *Evening Standard*, which lost circulation.

The group's share structure, which is split between ordinary voting shares and A non-voting shares, is to be reshaped through a bonus issue of nine A shares for each voting and A share already held. The Rothermere family intends to vote its 53.4 per cent stake in favour of the move and said it had no intention of reducing its interest.

Earnings, before exceptional items, improved to 501.6p (400.6p) a share; overall, they were ahead to 482.5p (204.0p) a share. The final dividend is raised to 112p (98p), giving a total of 148p (130p) for the year.

Both the A and ordinary shares added £6¾ to £115¾.

Creditors helped by 3i ruling

By Our City Staff

LENDERS which are not clearing banks can now rank above the Government in recovering loans made to companies that fail. The principle was established by a Court of Appeal victory by 3i, the venture capital group.

Until yesterday's ruling, loans secured against book debts could be classed as "fixed" only if the lender had control over the bank account into which the cash relating to the book debt was paid. This meant only clearing banks had fixed charges and all other lenders were said to have floating charges.

The advantage of a fixed charge is in the pecking order for payments when a company goes into liquidation or receivership. Fixed charge lenders rank first, followed by government entitlements and then floating charge lenders.

The receivers of New Bullas Trading had applied to the court for direction on whether the government ranked ahead of 3i. Although the venture capital group had no control over the account, the court ruled it ranked ahead of preferential creditors because the charge document was drafted so that the book debt was distinguished from cash received. The 3i charge was a fixed charge because it required the proceeds of the book debt to be paid into a specific clearing bank account. No right of appeal to the House of Lords was given.

ASB stands firm on takeovers

By Sarah Bagnall

THE Accounting Standards Board is standing firm on its proposals to curtail the ability of companies to flatter future profits by using acquisition accounting techniques, despite pressure from industry.

The proposals outlined in the financial reporting exposure draft (Fred7), *Fair Values in Acquisition Accounting*, are broadly unchanged from those in the board's discussion paper published earlier this year.

David Tweedie, the board's chairman, said: "The paper's proposals gained support, but it wasn't overwhelming. I think people expected some of the proposals to be knocked out."

If Fred7 becomes a standard, it will transform current accounting practice and affect acquiring companies' profit and loss accounts and balance sheets. Acquiring companies will not be able to continue to make balance sheet provisions for future losses and reorganisation costs of acquired companies. This method has been used extensively by companies including Hanson and BTR to protect future profits by taking the costs through the balance sheet.

The board proposes that provisions for future losses and reorganisation costs following an acquisition are charged to the consolidated profits and loss account. But it has amended its proposed anti-avoidance measures. At the discussion paper stage the board said a decision to reorganise which is taken in the six months before a takeover should be deemed as post-acquisition.

Instead, said Mr Tweedie, it had been decided that if a company put pressure on a target to make changes these would be considered post-acquisition costs because control had changed hands.

By clamping down on post-acquisition provisions the proposals stop companies from inflating the goodwill element of a purchase. This links in with the board's discussion paper on goodwill and intangible assets, to be published on Monday. The board is seeking comments on both papers by April 30 next year.

Peter Holgate, a technical partner at Coopers & Lybrand, said: "We agree with this as a general principle but take issue with the way in which the board applies it to provisions. Current practice is that acquiring companies can, as part of the fair value exercise, set up provisions for costs of, for example, reorganising the target company and integrating it into the acquiring company's existing operations."

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☐ Gatt deal leaves tricky loose ends ☐ Accounting reforms on the right track ☐ Shedding light on British Gas's darkness

Now the hard work begins

☐ NOW the caravan rolls on to Marrakesh for ratification. The fat gentleman may have banged his gavel but those who think seven years of haggling over trade are finally over are in for a rude awakening. April is the next milestone but more rounds of haggling are already booked up until the end of 1995. Before then, the world's consumers will hardly have seen any benefit from all that diplomatic labour. Only ten years after that will the accord on textiles, for instance, start to bite fully.

Meanwhile, there is more urgent work to be done. Bringing agriculture and services into the orbit of Gatt for the first time was one of the main aims of the Uruguay round. In farm trade, the first impact looks healthy but more limited than many imagine, especially in Europe. In services, many of the accords are merely frameworks and declarations of principle, into which much detail has to be shovelled.

For the European Community, and especially for London, one of the great disappointments is that the practical application of anti-discriminatory Gatt rules to financial services is highly conditional. America has modified its insistence on complete discretion to discriminate between financial institutions from different countries according to their own treatment of foreigners. So there is no threat, for instance, to the existing business of British banks across the Atlantic. Basic access provisions include a grandfathering clause that will cover them. But it will only extend most favoured nation treatment to all if parent countries make "acceptable" reciprocal access offers within six months of the treaty coming into force in 1995.

Further easing of American banking restrictions, first on interstate banking and then possibly on combining banking and securities business, are likely. The benefits will only go to firms from top tier countries that achieve MFN status. There are disputes between the US and several EC countries. The most important is with Germany, which demands heavy local capitalisation for foreign bank branches.

In theory, the worst danger is to London's status as a financial centre if disputes boiled over and the EC opted for retaliation or, more likely, a similar stand against third parties, notably Japan. In practice, this should not be a worry. America's main disputes are with Japan, some other Asian countries and Brazil. And since grandfathering clauses would apply in any EC dispute, it would only affect new entrants. At the moment, London is mainly hoping that all the Japanese banks already here will stay.

That is just financial services. Think of all the others. Sorting out the detail will show if the Multilateral Trade Organisation, potentially the greatest gain from the round, will really work or bilateral skirmishing returns. That is vital, for there will never be a successor to the Uruguay round.

Filling in the black hole

☐ LAST year, Sir Ron Dearing, chairman of the Financial Reporting Council, issued dire warnings of what might happen if big business and accountants did not knuckle down to the testing reforms due from all directions. In his final review this week, Sir Ron could afford to take a mellower view. He has



presided over a revolution that would probably not have happened without his leadership, and he can now hand on to the capable hands of Sir Sydney Lipworth the longer task of making it work.

There are still critical battles to fight, notably over the imminent proposals on goodwill from David Tweedie's Accounting Standards Board. So far, the board has only lost occasional arguments with big battalions when it deserved to. In the latest exposure draft, *Fair Values in Acquisition Accounting*, Mr Tweedie has rightly stuck to his guns. It aims to fill in the black hole into which successful bidders dumped everything but the kitchen sink, boosting future profits. The takeover kings protest quite reasonably that anticipated re-organisation costs — though not future losses — should continue to be treated as part of the cost of an acquisition, and be kept out of the profit and loss account. The board, as usual, wants to let it all hang out. The clincher is that "provisions" made after takeovers have probably led to more abuse, issued more misleading signals to investors, and brought more tears in later years than any other accounting technique. The acquisition black hole is one of the worst in accounting.

The *locus classicus*, well exposed in Terry Smith's *Accounting for Growth*, is the takeover of John Crowther by the late Coloroll, which managed to write off a total of £224 million, £11 million more than its purchase cost. In the first year it absorbed £52 million of costs in these provisions, while reporting profits of £56 million. Write-downs of stocks and debtors would still be permitted under stringent conditions. Even allowing for that, under the proposed changes, Coloroll's reported profits would have been no more than £13 million. As subsequent events showed, this would have been more realistic.

Usually, provisioning flatters profits more gently, along with depreciation savings on asset writedowns. That does not make it any better. Common sense says that if a company pays more for an acquisition than it is worth, including sustainable goodwill, it has been incompetent. Accounting rules should reflect more common sense.

Strategy please for British Gas

☐ The betting is that Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, will finally reveal his hand in respect of British Gas today although, that said, not a few interested parties were on standby in anticipation of a possible statement yesterday, including, by all accounts, chief executive Cedric Brown and his colleagues at Rivermill House.

The DTI remains mute in view of the "price sensitive" nature of Heseltine's pronouncement but, in anticipation of light amid the darknesss, dealers raised British Gas's share price 4.5p to 355p: a shade off its 357p peak.

It is no less than four and a half months since the Monopolies and Mergers Commission delivered its report to the DTI, the key recommendations being: the divestment of British Gas's trading operations by the spring of 1997; the ring fencing of the company's transportation and storage business; and removal of the tariff monopoly three to five years after divestment.

The nub of Heseltine's problem is that although the Government favours domestic market competition (surprise, surprise) it does not necessarily favour a break up, not least because this would end British Gas's ability to underpin the market during transition. Domestic competition is one thing; higher prices quite another.

Against this background, the DTI has dragged more than its heels. With Parliament set to rise tomorrow, time, presumably, has run out. What British Gas's directors, 2 million shareholders and 70,000 employees must hope is that Heseltine's perspective on the MMC's recommendations offers a positive base for a return to strategic planning. The worst scenario (barring emulation of Lord Young's beerage fiasco) would be further procrastination.

Daimler in DM2bn loss for 9 months

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN STUTTGART

DAIMLER-BENZ, Germany's largest industrial group, reported a heavy loss for the first nine months of 1993, but said restructuring and economic recovery should lead to an operating profit in 1994.

Edzard Reuter, chairman, said: "In economic and other ways, 1993 was perhaps the most difficult year of the post-war era for many companies, including Daimler-Benz."

Daimler reported a loss under German accounting rules of DM181 million, compared with a profit of DM1.27 billion in the same 1992 period.

However, according to more stringent US accounting rules, the loss totalled DM2.05 billion, or DM44.02 a share. No comparative figures were provided.

Daimler began presenting both figures after its shares were listed on the New York Stock Exchange earlier this year.

Herr Reuter said he was convinced that the company could look forward to a brighter future. "Given the current upturn in operating results — especially at Mercedes-Benz — plus the progress we have made in this area, we view the coming year optimistically," he said.

He said Daimler results for the final three months should begin to show the early signs of improvement and he predicted better results for 1994.

Car industry analysts have said that a better outlook for Daimler's Mercedes luxury car subsidiary, together with restructuring measures at AEG, the electronics unit, and at its Deutsche Aerospace (DASA) subsidiary, should put Daimler back on course from 1994.

For the past couple of years, Daimler has been cutting jobs, shutting facilities and streamlining operations in an attempt to reduce its costs. Herr Reuter said: "The Daimler-Benz group is thus more than ready to meet the challenge as soon as worldwide demand is once again steady."

Daimler-Benz has been looking abroad for manufacturing sites, to avoid the high cost of labour in Germany. However, late on Tuesday, the Mercedes-Benz carmaking division said it will build its new A-Class cars in its existing factory in Rastatt in south-western Germany. Production will begin in 1997, Mercedes said.

Northern Electricity and South Western increase dividends

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

■ Higher sales volumes and reduced costs continue to drive profits forward at Northern Electric and South Western Electricity, which remain bullish about prospects

NORTHERN Electric and South Western Electricity yesterday became the latest regional electricity companies to provide generous rewards for shareholders, with further healthy increases in interim dividends and profits.

Improved turnover, margins and income from investments combined with lower costs and interest to help pre-tax profits at Northern Electric rise 28 per cent to £52.6 million in the six months to September 30. Turnover grew to £460.7 million (£395.5 million).

The company, based in Newcastle upon Tyne, said its customers received a price cut and rebate totalling £20 in 1993, though the addition of 8 per cent value added tax in April will add an extra £24 to the average annual bill. Units of electricity distributed by the group rose 1.4 per cent in spite of recessionary conditions, with the domestic sector ahead 4.2 per cent and commercial side up 3.6 per cent. But industrial demand fell by about 1 per cent reflecting further declines in the traditional coal mining and shipbuilding areas, though the overall rate of decline was less severe. Northern's 1.4 million domestic customers are benefiting from a £10 rebate in the current quarter. Disconnections were reduced by 90 per cent to about 164 in the first half, against a figure nearer 2,000 last time. David Morris, chairman, said: "We have increased our sales volumes and continued to cut costs, giving us positive cash flows and increases in profit. Full year and future prospects are encouraging." Electrical appliance sales improved, with two more out-of-town superstores opened.

The interim dividend is raised to 7.4p (6.3p), from earnings ahead to 32.1p (24.7p) a share. Northern shares added 7p to 713p.

South Western Electricity proposes an 18.6 per cent rise in its interim dividend to 7p (5.9p) as the Bristol-based distributor unveiled a 28 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £30.6 million in the six months to September 30. Turnover edged to £385 million (£381.5 million). Units distributed climbed by a healthy 2.1 per cent, with improved demand across the board. Earnings climbed to 19.9p (15.1p) a share.

The group's 1.25 million customers are already getting a £9 autumn quarterly bill reduction. Tariffs should be frozen until April 1995. John Sellers, finance director, said that disconnections had been "virtually eliminated" and he was optimistic on full year prospects and beyond.

The company benefited from reduced costs and lower interest charges, while the group's investment in Teeside Power was also generating profits. Cost-cutting was given added impetus by the recent announcement of a 10 per cent staff reduction programme, to be implemented during 1994 that will cost about £8.6 million.

SRL, the group's high street shops subsidiary, reduced losses to £1 million (£2.9 million).

South Western shares firmed 1p to 664p.

☐ South Wales Electricity (Swalec) and International CableTel Incorporated of New York have signed shareholder and management agreements for a new cable television and telecommunications company in South Wales. CableTel South Wales, the new joint venture company 40 per cent owned by Swalec, will operate three franchises; in Cardiff, Newport and West Glamorgan.

Power firms given enquiry warning

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

NATIONAL Power and PowerGen, the electricity generators, were told by the industry's regulator yesterday that they would be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for an enquiry unless they made moves to dispose of power stations and gave assurances on prices.

The move by Stephen Littlechild, director-general of Electricity Supply, prompted a cautious response from the generators. It came as an independent study today by *PowerUK*, the trade journal, suggests existing power plant is being priced up to 40 per cent too high to deter potential buyers.

Professor Littlechild said that while further steps needed to be taken to ensure the protection of electricity customers and to allow the satisfactory development of the industry, he had told the two companies that he would not need to make any referral to the MMC if agreement could be reached on two issues.

Talks will now take place with the generators on what the professor said were the "steps to be taken to bring about a more competitive industry by opening the way for the voluntary sale of some existing plant" and on "assurances on prices for a reasonable period until a more competitive market is achieved."

In effect, he set a deadline for the talks by announcing he would decide in about a month's time whether a referral would be necessary.

National Power said it was continuing discussions with the regulator in an effort to find a mutually satisfactory way forward. PowerGen said it regarded referral as "unnecessary".

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HP Bulmer branches out



John Rudgard is looking to Belgium for further growth

BY NEIL BENNETT

HP BULMER, Britain's leading cider manufacturer, is planning to launch orange and peach-flavoured ciders in Britain, made by Stassen, its recently acquired Belgian subsidiary. The company hopes this will continue the growth in the cider market, forecast to reach 110 million gallons a year by the end of the decade, up from 89 million gallons today. The cider market is growing at 10 per cent a year, in contrast with beer, which is declining by 3 per cent annually.

John Rudgard, Bulmer's managing director, said Stassen had given the group new products and taught them advanced manufacturing techniques. In the half year to October 29, Stassen made its first full profit contribution of £706,000.

Profits at Bulmer in the six months plunged by three quarters to £2.66 million as the group suffered a £9.3 million loss on the disposal of Pectin, its loss-making food additive subsidiary. The underlying profits of the group rose 12 per cent to £12 million on a 7 per cent rise in sales to £133 million. Bulmer is lifting its half-year dividend by 7 per cent to 4p. Sales of Strongbow, the group's leading brand, rose 4 per cent, with much higher growth from newer, premium ciders. Scrumpy Jack sales grew by more than 40 per cent.

Tempus, page 27

China tops direct investment table

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

THE flow of capital into the developing world has risen to record levels over the last two years, although most of the finance has benefitted only a small number of countries, notably China and Mexico. According to the World Debt Tables, published by the World Bank yesterday, the net flows of external finance to developing countries reached $157 billion in 1992, and is forecast to rise by 13 per cent to $177 billion this year, an increase of two and a half times since 1990.

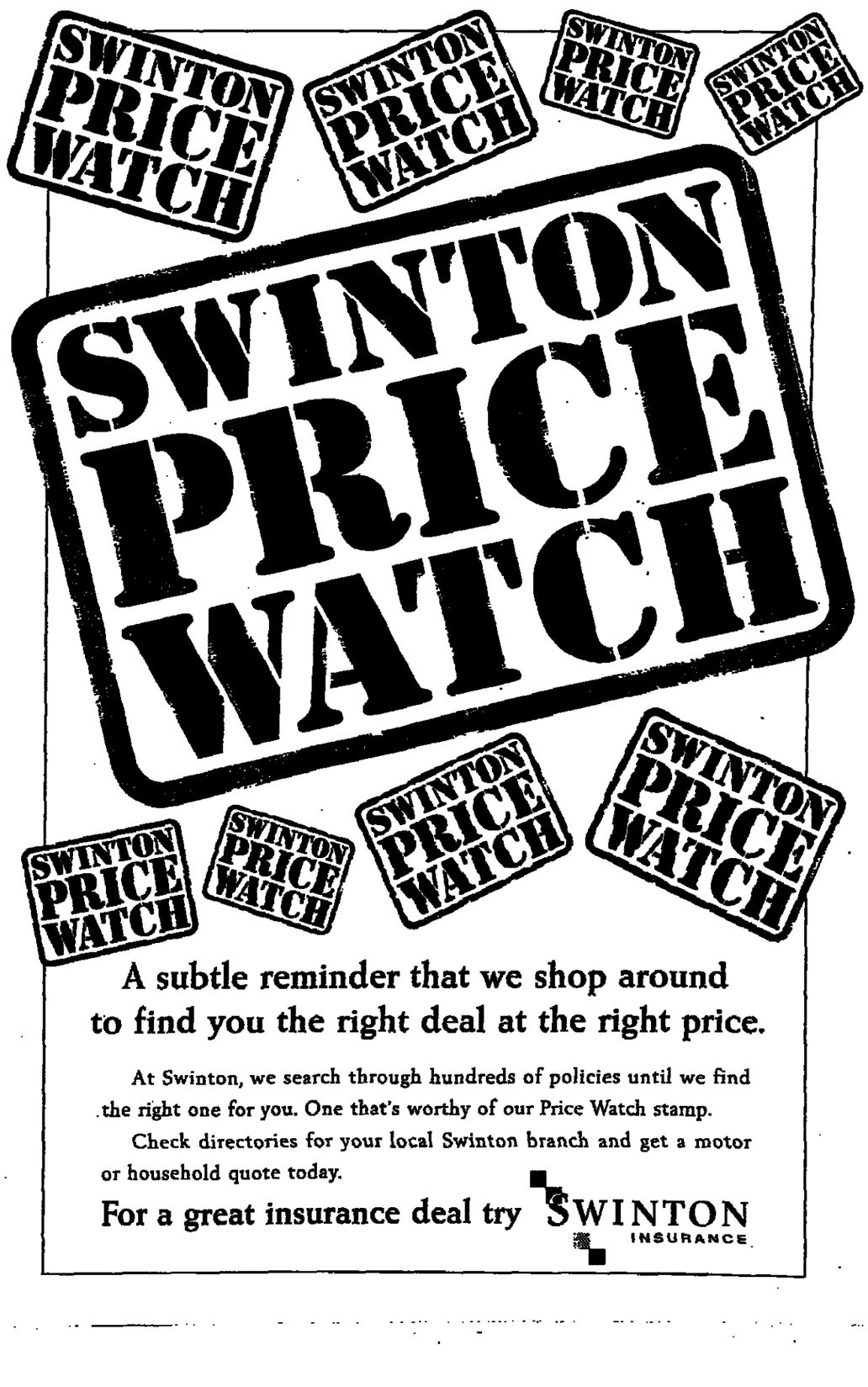
This year marks the second in a row in which private-sector finance exceeds funding from official sources, a result of the strong rise in foreign direct investment (FDI), which is now the single largest source of external finance, accounting for 30 per cent of the total.

The largest beneficiary of FDI is China, which accounted for one quarter of total FDI. The highly skewed nature of foreign investment in the developing world is evident as China, Mexico, Argentina, Malaysia, and Thailand account for almost 60 per cent of the $47 billion in FDI.

Michael Bruno, chief economist of the World Bank, said: "The striking growth in private-source capital flows is due mainly to economic policy reforms in developing countries, especially fiscal consolidation, greater openness to trade, privatization, and more market-oriented policies. It has also been facilitated by the reduction of the commercial bank debt overhang in several heavily indebted middle-income countries."

The report notes concerns about the sustainability of the current high level of capital flows, but expressed optimism that "the current flows may prove more durable than the commercial bank lending of the 1970s" because of an improvement in economic policies in developing countries, a more productive use of funds by the private sector, and a relative increase in equity flows.

The total amount of external debt of all developing countries rose throughout 1992 by 3.5 per cent top $1,660 billion and is expected to have rise by another 6.5 per cent this year.



Inflation cheer helps push shares to another record close

STOCK MARKET

SHARE prices raced to a another record closing high, cheered by the latest inflation figures bringing the prospect of another cut in interest rates a step closer.

The FT-SE 100 index shrugged off the ill-effects of an opening fall on Wall Street to close near its best of the day with a rise of 30.4 points at a new high of 3,278.8. The previous closing best of 3,277.4 was achieved only last week.

Once again, it was the futures market that made all the early running, benefiting from the latest drop in the inflation rate during November. Warburg Securities was said to be a big buyer of the future with just a few days of the December series left to run. Conditions in the cash market were described as thin, with only 752 million shares changing hands.

Market-makers will no doubt be keeping a close eye on today's Bundesbank meeting to see if there is a further softening of German interest rates.

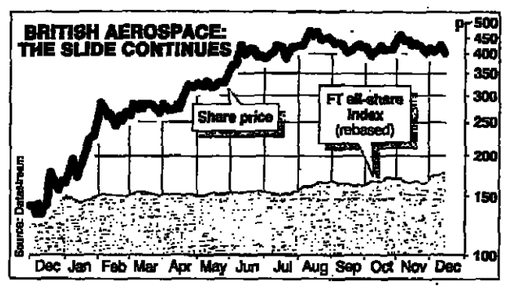
Tate & Lyle suffered an early fall, touching 388p on reports that the American Government was cancelling plans to add ethanol to petrol to reduce pollution. But the price later rallied to close only 3p off at 396p. Last week, a line of 5 million Tate shares was overhanging the market. Only 3 million have, so far, been found a home.

BICC climbed 10p to 416p on yield considerations as BZW began recommending the shares to clients.

Kwik Save, the food retailer, stood out with a rise of 18p to 570p as the annual report was published. Brokers say the shares have been left behind by this week's rally by the rest of the sector.

British Aerospace was on the slide again, losing 3p at 400p, making a two-day deficit of 17p. Talk of a profits downgrading from Cazenove, the broker, was said to be responsible for the initial fall.

But other brokers are thought to have turned bearish, worried about the group's reluctance to write-back provisions relating to the loss of the joint venture project with Taiwan Aerospace.



BP rose 6p to 332p after a meeting with fund managers. The group assured them it had cut debts by $3.2 billion to $13.2 billion and intended to reduce the figure nearer to $10 billion. A further $1.5 billion will be raised by disposals in 1994.

Hanson benefited from the news that the Peabody miners are set to return to work within the next few days by putting on 5p to 268½p.

Dorling Kindersley, the publisher, tumbled 88p to 222p on the back of a profits warning and the resignation of Richard Harman as its managing director. The group expected pre-tax profits for the full year to be somewhat below the £9.65 million made last year.

Pentos, the book retailer, also tumbled 8½p to 26p after warning of substantial losses at Athena and difficult trading at Ryman.

Big write-offs are planned and the group will not be paying a final dividend. The group's store opening programme has been suspended in order to reduce debts.

HP Bulmer, the cider-maker, fell 4p to 414p after disappointing first-half figures that were dented by an exceptional charge of almost £10 million relating to the disposal of its pectin business. As a result, pre-tax profits were down from £10.71 million to just £2.26 million.

The outcome for the year will depend on Christmas sales.

It was the first day of dealings for **London Industrial**, the property investment company specialising in light industrial, studios and office workspace. Placed by Smith New Court, the stockbroker, at 320p, the shares started life at 333p before closing at their high for the day of 336p, a premium of 16p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED**: gilts made headway on the back of the latest inflation figures, but failed to hold their best levels. The March series of the Long Gilt touched £119¼ before settling £5/16 better at £118 15/16 with 80,000 contracts completed.

There was a further flattening of the yield curve in the cash market as longs gained ground, with Treasury 9 per cent 2012 climbing £5/16 to £125¾. In shorts, Treasury 9½ per cent 1999 slipped a tick to £115 7/8.

☐ **NEW YORK**: US blue chips, dragged down by a decline in the shares of Eastman Kodak, continued to trade on the downside at midday. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 8.66 points to 3,733.97 after sinking to 3,723.07. Declining issues led advancing shares by about ten to eight.

MICHAEL CLARK

Pentos gloom as forecasts worsen

BY CARL MORTISHED


Sir Kit: expects big losses

THE market braced itself for heavy losses at Pentos, the bookshop and stationery group, as Sir Kit McMahon, chairman, warned of falling sales at Ryman and predicted trading losses for the Athena chain of poster shops.

Terry Maher, the former chairman, was forced out by non-executives in September following interim losses of £400,000 and a warning of sharply-reduced full year profits. A review has now revealed a worsening picture.

Sir Kit said: "It is now expected that the group will show a substantial loss before tax and exceptional items in the year ending December 31." He said no final dividend would be paid.

The shares fell 8p to 26p on the news and concern for the balance sheet, which is expected to suffer from large write-downs. Group borrowings of £86 million in October have fallen, and Sir Kit said debt reduction was a priority. Dillons grew rapidly in the late 1980s, with profits on incentive payments made by landlords to secure long leases. The new management will treat property gains separately.

Tempus, page 27

Dorling shares hit after profit alert

BY MARTIN FLANAGAN


Kindersley: rift denied

NEARLY 30 per cent, or £54.8 million, was wiped off the stock market value of Dorling Kindersley, the publisher, as a second profits warning and the resignation of the managing director were announced yesterday.

Shares fell 89p to 221p as the company said that Richard Harman, who has been with the group nine years, was quitting, taking up about £1.3 million in share options in lieu of settlement of a three-year rolling contract.

Peter Kindersley, chairman, denied that any boardroom rift on business strategy had precipitated Mr Harman's departure. Mr Harman's position will be taken by Rod Hare, the operations director.

He will be helped by Peter Gill, finance director, who joined the company last August. Mr Kindersley added: "Richard felt he had done his time." He also said that taxable profits in the 12 months to June 30 next year would be "somewhat less" than the £9.65 million achieved last year.

Dorling confirmed that it would be making a claim against Tiptree, the distributor of its UK titles, after an assessment by the Arthur Andersen, the accountant.

Greencore sweetens payout

Greencore, the food company that has a monopoly of Irish sugar production, increased pre-tax profits 19 per cent to Ir£34 million (£32 million) in the year to September 24, exceeding brokers' forecasts. The final dividend is 5.5p (5p), making a net 8.8p (8p). Greencore said that in spite of unfavourable conditions for the current beet harvest, profits for the current year would still improve.

Gerry Murphy, chief executive, said Greencore was looking for acquisitions and could spend Ir£100 million with ease.

Millwall stake

José Berardo, president of Martimo, a Portuguese football club, has taken a 5.42 per cent stake in Millwall Holdings, the USM-quoted football club. Millwall has placed 14.4 million new shares at 3.6p a share with Import and General Trading Corporation, chaired by Senhor Berardo. It compares with a market price yesterday of 4p. The placing raises £517,800 before expenses for Millwall. Reg Burr, Millwall chairman, said Senhor Berardo, who had already built up a holding of 2 million shares since last month, would not have board representation at this stage.

£9m debut

Shares in Securitised Endowment Contracts, the market-maker in assigned with-profits endowment policies, will be priced at 60p each, valuing the company at £9.1 million, when they begin trading on the Unlisted Securities Market on December 21. SEC, which began trading just two years ago, has about 11 per cent of the market, estimated to be worth between £80 million and £100 million this year. The share issue will raise £3.1 million.

MARKETS AT A GLANCE

THE POUND

US $	1.4850 (-0.0042)
German mark	2.5468 (-0.0051)
Exchange index	81.5 (-0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100	3278.8 (+30.4)
Dow Jones	3733.97 (-8.66)*
Nikkei Avg	17489.15 (+180.42)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	5½%
3-month Interbank	5 7/16-5 5/16%
US Federal Funds	3¼%
3-month Treas Bills	3.03-3.02%*
Long Bond	6.26%*

CURRENCIES

New York:		London:	
£/$	1.4835*	£/$	1.4835
$/DM	1.7160*	£/DM	2.5464
$/SwFr	1.4655*	£/SwFr	2.1755
$/Fr	5.8618*	£/Fr	8.6905
$/Yen	109.60*	£/Yen	162.74
£/SDR	1.0748	£/ECU	1.3193

London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing ($):
AM 385.90 PM 385.60
Close 385.60-386.10
New York:
Comex 384.85-385.35*

OIL

Brent Crude $13.80 per bbl (Feb)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI 141.6 Nov (1.4%) Jan 1987=100

* Denotes midday trading price

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Acatos & Hutch	341p (+19p)
Lloyds	639p (+12p)
Bass	553p (+18p)
Greenalls Group	426p (+14p)
Guinness	477p (+12p)
Whitbread 'A'	587p (+13p)
Meyer Int	514p (+10p)
Persimmon	297p (+15p)
RMC Group	930p (+26p)
Inchcape	544p (+12p)
Kwik Save	570p (+18p)
Forte	258p (+10p)
Antofagasta	978p (+23p)
BICC	416p (+10p)

FALLS:

EIS	385p (-10p)
Dixons Group	276p (-8p)
Bowater	462p (-13p)
Vodafone	561p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 29

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

BAGGERIDGE BRICK (Fin) — Dividend in previous year was 3.125p a share. A recovery in brickmaking profits in second half made good first-half shortfall
Pre-tax: £2.03m (£1.8m)
EPS: 3.33p (3.03p)
Div: 2.375p, mkg 3.125p

CHEMRING GROUP (Fin) — Turnover rose to £39.42 million from £37.9 million. Directors are confident of making further progress this year
Pre-tax: £5.7m (£5.2m)
EPS: 18.8p (17.2p)
Div: 6p, mkg 9p (8.15p)

ENSOR HOLDINGS (Int) — Losses reduced from £2.1 million before tax and 18.1p a share. Turnover rose to £6.9 million from £6.6 million
Pre-tax: £32,000 loss
EPS: 0.1p loss
Div: Nil (nil)

HUNTERS ARMLEY — Final results. Total dividend last time was 0.32p. Sales rose to £32.24 million from £28.4 million
Pre-tax: £2.67m (£2.03m)
EPS: 9.32p (6.98p)
Div: 2.5p, mkg 3.75p

POLAR (Fin) — Profit in previous year was £902,000 and total dividend was 4.5p a share. Turnover rose to £21.9 million
Pre-tax: £1.3m
EPS: 10.7p (7.3p)
Div: 2.85p, mkg 4.85p

SHOPRITE GROUP (Fin) — In previous year there was an adjusted 1.5p a share total dividend. Company sees potential for 200 stores in Scotland
Pre-tax: £5.08m (£2.7m)
EPS: 5.64p (3.77p)
Div: 1.6p, mkg 2.2p

RECENT ISSUES

Abtrust LLoyds Insce (100)	93	...
Abtrust Lloyds Wts	40	...
Amicable Smlr Ent (100)	101	...
Angerstein (100)	98	...
Azlan (230)	261	+1
Badgerline (115)	109	...
Biotrace Intl (130)	150	...
CLM Insce (100)	103	...
Celltech (250)	223	+4
DFS Furniture (260)	302	+5
Fenchurch (180)	169	+2
Pinsbury Undrwrtng Inv	107½	...
For & Col Smaller (100)	100½	...
Gartmore (168)	186	...
Govett High Inc (100)	109	...
HCG Lloyds Inv Tst (100)	101	...
Harmony Leisure Wts	4½	...
Hozelock (250)	249	...
Inspirations (100)	111	...
Johnson Fry Utilities (100)	110	+½
Johnson Fry Zero Pf (100)	104¼	...
Kleinwort 2nd Endw (50)	52	...
Lilitput (135)	130	-1
Litho Supplies (190)	210	...
London Industrial (320)	336	...
Masthead Insce (100)	108	...
Mercury World Mng (100)	97½	...
Mercury World Mng Wts	42½	...
Millgate (40)	41	...
Morgan Gren Eqty C (100)	103½	...
NM Smllr Aust (100)	100	...
NM Smllr Wts	45	...
New London Capital (100)	97	...
On Demand Info (78)	109	...
Pilot Inv C (100)	100	...
Premium Trust	94	...
Premium Underwriting	122	+6
Royal Doulton	224	...
Ruberoid (150)	169	+5
Syndicate Capital (100)	95	-1
Syndicate Capital Wts	36	...
Telspec (160)	203	+3
Ugland Intl	101	-2
Wigmore Property Inv (100)	99	...
Wigmore Property Wts	43	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Banner Homes n/p (89)	28	...
Dwyer A n/p (50)	4	...
NFC n/p (195)	26	-1
Serif n/p (11)	7½	...
Tay Homes n/p (145)	20	...
Wyevale Garden n/p (152)	19	...

WALL STREET

	Dec 15 midday	Dec 14 close
AMP Inc	60¾	60¾
AMR Corp	66⅞	66⅝
Abbott Labs	28⅝	28½
Aetna Life	60¼	60¼
Ahmanson (FH)	19⅜	19⅜
Air Prod & Chem	45⅝	45⅞
Albertson's	25⅞	26
Allan Aluminum	21¼	21½
Alco Standard	52⅜	52½
Allied Signal	75⅝	75⅝
Alum Co of Am	71¾	72⅛
Amax Gold Inc	7	7⅛
Ameredn Hess	43½	43⅞
Amer Brands	33⅞	33¾
Amer Cyanamid	51½	51½
Amer El Power	36⅜	36⅜
Amer Express	30⅝	31⅛
Amer Genl Corp	27⅞	27⅞
Amer Home Pr	63½	63½
Amer Intl	87⅜	87⅜
Amer Stores	42⅝	42⅝
Amer T & T	53½	54⅛
Amerltech	78½	78½
Amoco	51⅛	52
Anheuser-Busch	48⅝	49⅜
Apple Computer	29⅜	29⅜
Archer Daniels	23⅜	22⅞
Arkla	7⅜	7⅜
Armco	6	6⅛
Armstrong Wrld	47⅜	47⅜
Asarco	21¼	22⅛
Ashland Oil	32⅜	32½
Atl Richfield	103	103½
Auto Data Pro	35⅜	35½
Avery Dennison	29⅛	29⅜
Avon Products	49⅝	49⅝
Baker Hughes	19⅜	19⅜
Baltim Gas & El	25	25
Bank Ones	37¼	37⅜
BankAmerica	45	45⅛
Bank of NY	56	55⅞
Bankers Tr NY	78	77⅞
Barnett Banks	40⅝	40⅝
Bausch & Lomb	51⅛	51⅛
Baxter Intl	23⅛	23⅜
Becto Dickson	35⅜	35⅞
Bell Atlantic	60	60⅝
BellSouth	57⅛	58
Black & Decker	19⅝	20⅛
Block (HAR)	41¼	41¼
Boeing	41½	40⅝
Boise Cascade	33½	33⅝
Borden Inc	18½	17⅞
Bristol Myrs Sq	59	57⅞
Browning Ferris	26⅜	26½
Burlington Nthn	56⅝	56⅝
CBS	298	297
CNA Financial	78⅜	77
CPC Intl	46⅜	46⅞
CSX	87⅛	86⅝
Campbell Soup	42	41⅞
Can Pacific	16⅛	16⅛
Cpnl Cities ABC	636	633
Cpnl Holdings	38⅜	38
Carolina Pwr	29	29
Caterpillar	85	84½
Central & SW	30⅜	30⅜
Champion Int	32⅝	32⅝
Chase Manhat	33⅝	32⅞
Chemical Bk	39⅜	39
Chevron Corp	84⅜	85⅛
Chrysler	56½	55⅞
Chubb Corp	78½	77⅞
Cigna Corp	62⅛	62⅛
Cilcorp	35	35
Clorox	52½	52½
Coastal Corp	27⅜	27⅜
Coca Cola	43	43⅛
Colgate-Palmolive	60⅜	60⅜
Columbia Gas	23⅜	23⅞
Commonw Ed	28⅛	28⅛
Compaq Comp	70⅞	71⅛
Comp Ass Int	40⅝	41
Conagra	25⅜	25⅜
Cons Edison	31½	31⅛
Cons Nat Gas	44	43⅞
Cons Rail	64½	63⅞
Cooper Inds	49⅛	49⅛
Corning Inc	26⅜	26⅜
Crown Cork	40⅝	39
Dana Corp	35⅝	35⅝
Dayton Hudson	69⅜	68⅞
Deere	37⅝	37⅝
Delta Air Lines	57½	57½
Deluxe Corp	35⅝	35⅝
Detroit Edison	30⅝	31
Digital Equip	25⅝	25⅝
Dillard Dept St	38⅜	37⅞
Disney (Walt)	42¼	42⅝
Dominion Res	44⅜	45⅛
Donelley (RR)	30⅝	30⅝
Dover Corp	64⅛	64⅛
Dow Chemical	59⅝	59½
Dow Jones	36⅜	37
Dresser	20⅜	20⅜
Duke Power	41½	41⅛
Dun & Bradstreet	62⅝	62⅞
Du Pont	49⅝	49⅜
Eastman Kodak	56⅜	62⅝
Eaton Corp	50⅞	50⅛
Emerson Elec	58⅞	59⅛
Engelhard Corp	24⅜	24⅜
Enron Corp	28⅜	28⅛
Entergy Corp	35⅜	35⅛
Ethyl Corp	18⅜	18⅜
Exxon	63½	63⅜
FMC Corp	46⅜	46⅜
FPL Group	38	38⅛
Federal Express	70⅜	71½
Fed Nat Mtge	77⅞	77⅞
First Chicago	41¼	41¼
First Interstate	62⅜	62¼
First Union Rlty	10⅝	10⅝
Fleet Finl Grp	31⅜	31¼
Fluor Corp	40⅞	40⅝
Ford Motor	62⅝	63⅞
GTE Corp	36⅛	35⅞
Gannett	55⅝	55½
Gap Inc Del	40⅜	40⅜
Gen Dynamics	93½	92⅝
Gen Electric	103⅞	102⅝
Gen Mills	60¼	60¼
Gen Motors	54⅜	55
Gen Refractories	109½	109½
Gen Signal	34½	34⅝
Genuine Parts	36½	36⅜
Georgia Pac	71⅛	71⅛
Gillette	58⅜	58⅜
Glaxo ADR	20⅛	20⅛
Goodrich (BF)	41⅛	41¼
Goodyear Tire	45⅜	46⅛
Grace (WR)	39½	39⅝
Grt Atl Pac Tea	28⅜	28⅛
Great Wstn Fin	19⅝	19⅝
Halliburton	30⅛	30⅛
Harcourt General	36⅜	36⅜
Heinz (HJ)	35⅜	36⅛
Hercules	110⅝	109½
Hershey Foods	49⅜	49⅝
Hewlett Packard	76⅝	76⅛
Hilton Hotels	54½	54⅜
Home Depot	40⅛	40⅝
Homestake Mng	22⅜	22⅜
Honeywell	33⅜	33⅜
Household Intl	32⅞	33
Houston Inds	46¼	45⅞
Humana	18⅝	18⅜
ITT Corp	85⅛	85⅜
Illinois Tool	37½	37⅜
INCO	25⅛	25⅜
Ingersoll Rand	36¼	36½
Inland Steel	33½	33⅝
Intel Corp	57⅞	57⅞
IBM	56½	56½
Intl Flav & Fr	110⅞	110⅝
Intl Paper	66⅜	67⅛
James River Va	18⅝	18⅜
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	43⅝	43⅝
K Mart	21½	22⅛
Kellogg	60¼	60¼
Kerr-McGee	44⅜	44⅜
Kimberly-Clark	50	50⅜
Knight-Ridder	59	58¾
Lilly (Eli)	57	57⅛
Limited Inc	17¾	17⅞
Lin Bridesting	111½	112⅜
Lincoln Nat	42⅜	42⅜
Litton	65⅝	65¼
Lz Claiborne	21¼	21½
Lockheed Corp	69	68⅞
Louisiana Pac	36⅜	37⅛
MCI Commun	25½	25½
Marriott Int	27⅝	28⅝
Marsh & McLan	78⅜	78⅜
Masco Corp	36⅜	36
May Dept St	41½	41⅝
Maytag Corp	17½	18¼
McCaw Cellular	51½	51¾
McDonalds	57¼	58
McDonnell D	110¼	109⅝
McGraw Hill	66⅛	66⅜
Mead Corp	44½	44
Medtronic	78⅛	79⅜
Mellon Bk	52⅜	52⅞
Melville Corp	39⅜	39⅜
Merck Inc	33	33⅜
Merrill Lynch	49⅝	49⅝
Minnesota Mine	112⅜	110⅛
Mobil Corp	75⅞	76½
Monsanto	72⅛	72⅛
Morgan (JP)	70⅞	70⅝
Motorola Inc	89⅜	90⅝
Nat Medical	14	13⅞
Nat Semi	15⅜	15⅜
Nat Service Ind	24¾	24½
Navistar Int	22⅜	23¼
NEC ADR	35⅝	35⅝
NY Times A	26⅜	26⅜
Newmont Ming	56½	56½
Nlag Mohawk	20⅛	20⅛
Nike B	48⅝	44⅜
NL Industries	5⅞	6
Nordstrom	33⅜	33
Norfolk Sthrn	72½	71
Nthn State Pwr	42¾	43½
Norwest Corp	23⅝	23⅝
Nynex Corp	42⅝	42½
Occidental Pet	17⅝	17⅝
Ohio Edison	21¼	21⅛
Oracle Systems	34¾	34½
Orya Energy Co	16½	17
Owens Corning	47⅞	47⅞
PNC Financial	29½	29⅜
PPG Industries	73⅜	73
Pacar Inc	64⅛	63⅝
Pacific Corp	19⅝	19⅝
Pac Enterprises	25	24⅞
Pac Gas & Elect	33¾	33½
Pac Telesis	56⅜	56⅜
Pall Corp	18⅝	19
Panhandle East	22½	22
Paramnt Comm	61⅛	61½
Parker Hannifin	37⅜	37⅜
Penney (JC)	53¾	53⅝
Pennzoil	54	54⅛
Pepsico	40⅜	40⅜
Pfizer	65½	64⅞
Phelps Dodge	49⅞	49⅞
Philadel Elec	28⅜	28⅜
Philip Morris	54⅛	54⅜
Phillips Pet	28	28⅛
Pitney Bowes	41⅛	41¼
Polaroid	35⅜	35⅜
PriceCostco	19⅜	19⅜
Primerica	39⅝	40⅛
Procter & Gmbl	56⅞	56⅞
Pub Serv E & G	31⅛	31⅛
Quaker Oats	73⅜	73⅛
Ralston Purina	37⅞	37⅞
Raychem Corp	37	37⅛
Raytheon	65⅞	64½
Reebok Intl	28⅜	28⅜
Reynolds Metals	46½	47⅛
Roadway Svcs	62	61½
Rockwell Intl	37	37⅛
Rohm & Haas	56¼	56
Royal Dutch	102⅛	101½
Rubbermaid	33⅜	33⅝
Safeco Corp	55⅞	56
St Paul Cos	90¾	90¾
Salomon Inc	47⅛	47⅜
Santa Fe Pac	21⅛	22
Sara Lee Corp	27⅜	27½
Scecorp	20⅜	20⅜
Schering Plough	64½	64
Schlumberger	57⅞	58⅜
Scott Paper	39⅜	39⅜
Seagate	28⅜	28⅝
Sears Roebuck	55⅜	55⅜
Shell Trans	62¼	61½
Sherwin, Wilms	33⅜	33
Skyline Corp	17⅜	17⅞
Skags-On-Tools	37⅞	37⅝
Southern Co	43⅜	43⅜
Sthwestern Bell	41½	42
Sprint Corp	32⅜	32⅜
Stanley Works	40⅜	40⅜
Sun Company	29⅜	30
Sunstrnd	44½	44½
Supervalu	34⅜	33⅝
Symex Corp	15⅝	16
Synco Corp	30	29⅝
TRW Inc	66½	67
Tandem Comp	10⅜	11
Tandy Corp	45½	43⅝
Telecom Corp	2⅜	2⅜
Teledyne	26	25⅝
Temple Inland	49⅜	49⅝
Tenneco	49⅞	49⅞
Texaco	62⅞	63¼
Texas Inst	61½	60⅝
Texas Utilities	42⅝	42⅝
Textron	56½	56½
Time Warner	43¾	44
Times-Mirror	34	34½
Timken	32½	32⅝
Transmerit	43¾	43⅝
Toys R Us	39	38⅝
Transamerica	57⅛	57
Travelers Corp	31⅜	32
Tribune	57⅞	57⅞
Tyco Labs	47⅞	47⅞
UAL Corp	148½	148½
UST Inc	26½	26½
USX Marathon	17⅜	17⅜
Unilever NV	113½	112⅝
Union Camp	47⅜	48⅛
Union Carbide	21½	21½
Union Pacific	60⅝	61¼
Unisys Corp	11⅛	11⅛
USAIR Group	13⅝	13⅝
USF&G Corp	12⅜	12⅜
US Bancp	36¼	37⅜
US West	46½	46⅝
United Tech	62	62
Unocal Corp	26½	26½
Upjohn	30⅛	30⅜
VF Corp	45⅝	46
WMX Tech	27½	27⅜
Wal-Mart Stores	26½	26½
Warner-Lambert	64½	64½
Wells Fargo	122⅜	121½
Westinghouse El	13⅝	13⅝
Weyerhaeuser	42⅜	43
Whirlpool	60¼	59⅜
Whitman	16½	16⅝
Winn Dixie	53⅜	53⅞
Woolworth	22⅜	23¼
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	43⅝	43⅝
Xerox	86⅜	87⅛

FT-SE VOLUMES

ASDA Gp	17,000	Cadbury	1,000	MEPC	2,300	Scot Power	1,700
Abbey Natl	2,100	Caradon	1,200	Marks Spr	5,600	Sears	1,800
Allid-Lyons	696	Carlton Cms	734	NFC	2,200	Svrn Trent	692
Anglian W	732	Coats Vly	6,200	Natwst Bk	3,900	Shell Trans	3,400
Argyll Gp	4,200	Cm Union	1,900	Nat Power	11,000	Siebe	2,000
Arjo Wiggn	2,100	Courtaulds	2,900	Nth Wst W	1,100	Smkl Bch	3,700
AB Foods	271	Enterpr Oil	610	Nthrn Fds	2,300	Smith Nph	1,100
BAA	1,200	Forte	3,800	P & O	1,600	Southern Elec	934
BAT Inds	2,900	GRE	1,700	Pearson	622	Std Chartd	2,600
BOC	764	GUS	3,000	PowerGen	5,100	Sun Allince	3,200
BP	11,000	Gen Acc	653	Prudential	6,300	TI Gp	1,100
BT	8,100	Gen Elec	6,700	RMC	667	TSB	5,800
BTR	11,000	Glaxo	6,000	RTZ	4,000	Tesco	12,000
Bk of Scot	3,000	Granada	4,300	Rank Org	357	Thames W	1,500
Barclays	1,900	Grand Met	5,200	Reckitt Col	382	Thrn EMI	1,300
Bass	2,200	Guinness	1,200	Redland	1,400	Tomkins	2,800
Blue Circle	2,000	HSBC	2,400	Reed Intl	1,400	Unilever	1,700
Boots	2,900	Hanson	7,000	Rentokil	1,400	Utd Biscs	1,300
Bowater	2,000	ICI	1,900	Reuters	1,200	Vodafone	1,900
Brit Aero	3,300	Inchcape	1,400	Rolls Royce	6,500	Warburg (SG)	468
Brit Airways	1,200	Kingfisher	1,100	Ryl Ins	1,800	Wellcome	1,600
Brit Gas	5,500	Ladbroke	5,800	Ryl Bk Scot	4,200	Whitbd 'A'	1,200
Brit Steel	5,000	Land Secs	1,400	Sainsbury	7,600	Wlms Hld	1,400
Burmah Cast	192	Legal & Gn	808	Schroders	91	Wolseley	301
Cable Wire	2,700	Lloyds Bk	2,400	Scot & Newc	2,700	Zeneca	1,500

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):		FT 30 share	2469.0 (+21.5)
Dow Jones	3733.97 (-8.66)	Brussels:	
S&P Composite	463.20 (+0.14)	General	7318.99 (-13.51)
Tokyo:		Paris: CAC-40	2162.63 (+6.13)
Nikkei Avge	17489.15 (+180.42)	Zurich: SKA Gen	658.10 (-3.90)
Hong Kong:		London:	
Hang Seng	9945.26 (-76.22)	FT A All-Share	1612.46 (+12.57)
Amsterdam:		FT 500	1715.24 (+14.20)
CBS Tendency	139.3 (same)	FT Gold Mines	251.8 (-3.4)
Sydney: AO	2069.90 (+16.70)	FT Fixed Interest	130.35 (+0.11)
Frankfurt:		FT Govt Secs	106.69 (-0.13)
DAX	2170.70 (-39.27)	Bargains	28808
		SEAQ Volume	752.7m
		USM (Datastrm)	150.69 (+0.03)

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
December 6	December 17	March 10	March 21

Call options were taken out on 15/12/93: BTR Wts 93/4, Babcock Intl, Eurotunnel, Ferromet, Fisons, Flextech, Greycoat, Huntingdon Intl, Medeva, Mercury World, Minmet, Northern Ireland Electric, Signet, Simon Eng, Standard Chartered.
Puts & Calls: Avesco, Trafalgar House, YTV Wts.

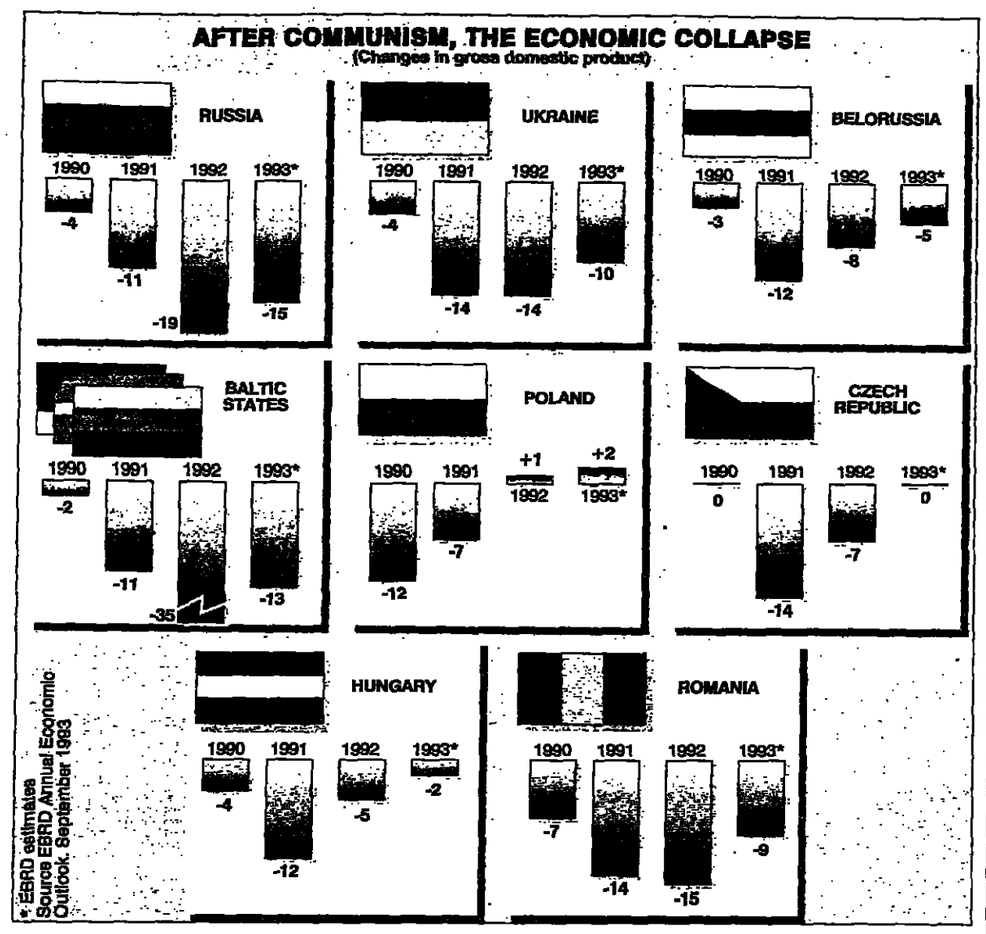
LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100	Dec 93	3296.0	3293.0	3256.0	3285.0	18624
Previous open interest: 80913	Mar 94	3279.0	3312.0	3277.0	3308.0	11192
Three Month Sterling	Dec 93	94.65	94.65	94.60	94.57	10367
Previous open interest: 425887	Mar 94	94.95	95.00	94.81	94.84	58795
	Jun 94	95.16	95.19	94.96	95.02	30737
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 94	96.46	96.46	96.45	96.46	357
Previous open interest: 8375	Jun 94	96.12	96.12	96.11	96.11	52
Three Mth Euro DM	Mar 94	94.52	94.55	94.50	94.54	29577
Previous open interest: 668191	Jun 94	95.05	95.07	95.00	95.03	21359
Long Gilt	Dec 93	119-20	119-31	119-07	119-23	1503
Previous open interest: 135464	Mar 94	118-28	119-10	118-13	118-30	86842
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 94	116.33	116.44	116.29	116.41	1540
	Jun 94				115.61	0
German Gov Bd Bund	Mar 94	100.53	100.75	100.35		

ECONOMIC VIEW

How the West encouraged Yeltsin in his mistakes

There are lessons to be learnt from the resurgence of reformed communists and nationalist extremists, Anatole Kaletsky argues



There is a joke doing the rounds in Moscow that goes a long way to explain the nightmarish possibility of a democratically-elected Russian Hitler, armed with hydrogen bombs. The Muscovites say that Brezhnev, Gorbachev and all the other communist leaders brought Russia to the brink of a bottomless abyss. Then, in the last two years, Yeltsin and his reformers took a great step forward.

The gallows humour — one of the few charming features of Russian culture to have survived all the upheavals — is somewhat exaggerated. From a strictly economic standpoint, the abyss does seem to have a bottom. The collapse in Russia's industrial and agricultural production is probably nearly over, while a resurgent private sector is generating boom conditions in many areas in construction, services and retail trade. Statistically, the worst was probably over for the Russian economy by the middle of this year.

According to Susanne Gahler, of J. P. Morgan, one of the few Western economists with genuine day-to-day knowledge of business conditions in Russia and Eastern Europe, industrial production will probably stabilise, albeit at an abysmal level some 15 per cent below last year's already catastrophic depression. The prospects for the year ahead could, if anything, be rather better — with the rouble rising in real terms against the dollar, exports growing and the current account in balance. As in Brazil, Israel and many other developing countries, business investment could prove compatible with very rapid inflation, at least for a few years.

But it would be rash to assume that the Russian people's sense of humiliation and betrayal will lift as soon as the economic statistics start to look better. For what has been shattered in Russia and the rest of the former Soviet Union (or FSU in Western diplomatic parlance) is much more than a system of economic management or even a tolerable material standard of living. History suggests that when empires and states collapse, it can be much harder to re-establish administrative institutions and stable political conditions than to rebuild factories, distribution chains and trading links.

In fact, looking around the whole of Eastern Europe and the FSU a remarkably uniform pattern is emerging. From Serbia and Croatia in the south-west, to Poland and Lithuania in the north, to Kazakhstan and Kirghizia in the east, either reformed communists or extreme racist nationalists are in power in almost every former communist country. And of the two main exceptions — Hungary and the Czech Republic — Hungary appears to be on the point of installing a socialist (ie a former communist) government in place of a right-wing regime that has only just managed to stay on the respectable side of the nationalist-racist dividing line.

This pattern raises important, and potentially disturbing, questions about the whole process of post-communist reconstruction — and not least about the role of Western aid institutions and economic advisers, in guiding the FSU and Eastern Europe out of the communist morass. One is of special relevance in the case that really matters — Russia itself. Have Western governments been right to advocate a speedy and "irreversible" revolution against communism, instead of a more gradual process of step-by-step reforms, built on existing state institutions, and managed largely by the old communist ruling elite? This was the literal meaning of the *perestroika* or "rebuilding" which Mikhail Gorbachev attempted, and which the communist leadership in China seem to have achieved.

To my mind, there have been four defining moments in Russia's transition from communism, in each of which Boris Yeltsin has made a fatally flawed choice. The first was in the summer of 1990, when Mr Gorbachev came close to adopting an important, if insufficiently ambitious, economic reform programme to cover the entire Soviet Union, but was thwarted by Mr Yeltsin's previously unthinkable claim to sovereign control over all the enterprises and natural resources situated on Russian soil. Had Mr Gorbachev been allowed to get on with his 500-day programme in 1990, there can be little doubt that economic reform would today have been much further advanced throughout the territory of what was then Soviet Union.

The second defining moment occurred immediately after the coup of August 1991, when the all-conquering Mr Yeltsin seized on his opportunity, not only to humiliate Mr Gorbachev personally in front of the Soviet people, but also to try to outlaw the Communist Party. In doing this, Mr Yeltsin destroyed the governability of Russia and the Soviet Union. As one of the West's principle economists on Russia at the time told me "the Communist Party apparatus was the only functioning governmental organisation in the country". By banning the Party, Mr Yeltsin ensured that the Soviet government would immediately cease to function — but he also undermined the ability of his own government to impose its will on the farflung Russian state. Nevertheless, Western governments cheered Mr Yeltsin and goaded him to move even faster in sweeping away the remnants of communist power.

Mr Yeltsin's third great mistake came in December 1991, when he peremptorily decided to abolish the Soviet Union — almost, it seemed, out of capricious spite against Mr Gorbachev, who was, at the very same time, racing to negotaite a new Union Treaty, which would have redefined the old soviet republics' political and economic links. Mr Yeltsin, by contrast to Mr Gorbachev had no new structure linking Russia and the other republics to put in the place of the Soviet Union. The economic consequences of the Soviet Union's sudden breakup into 15 hostile and even warring nations were bound to be disastrous, since Soviet industry was far more dependent on internal trade and division of labour than industry in America or the EC.

In fact, as Western economists and politicians should surely have remembered from America's experiences in the 1930s, the collapse of trade that followed the breakup of the Soviet Union would have precipitated enormous declines in living standards and output in Russia and the other FSI republics, even if they could have been converted to perfectly functioning market economies overnight. But again the West favoured Mr Yeltsin and cheered the impatient nationalists in Ukraine, Armenia and other FSU republics, simply on the grounds that the formal abolition of the old Soviet enemy would surely be a triumph for the West.

Mr Yeltsin's fourth great mistake was his confrontation in October with the Russian parliament — a confrontation which led directly to this week's neo-fascist upsurge and is likely to contribute to the further disintegration of Russia's governability in the coming months. Again the West sided with Mr Yeltsin, again on the grounds that the "hard-line" parliament was a relic of the communist past — and the main objective of Western policy was to sweep away as quickly as possible all traces of communism.

From the comfort and safety of the White House or some foreign office think-tank, this scorched-earth anti-communism presumably seemed appealing. But anyone who did business in the developing countries or reforming communist economies such as Vietnam or China should surely have realised that a stable system of government, law and foreign trade relations was going to be at least as important as privatisation and other purely economic reforms. They should have warned Mr Yeltsin and his starry-eyed protege, Yegor Gaidar, that political stability was a far more important condition for the creation of a market economy than the futile effort to eliminate inflation.

But, even more importantly, the West should have warned about the political dangers of totally destroying Soviet communism before there was anything else to put in its place. Anarchy and national disintegration, even more than galloping inflation and unemployment, can give fascism its appeal. From now on, at least, the West must try to remember this.

TEMPUS

All power corrupts

AT LAST Professor Stephen Littlechild, the director general of Offer, has admitted what the electricity industry suspected all along: that he has no real grounds to force National Power and PowerGen into a full MMC inquiry and that the best he can hope for is a face-saving deal to sell off some of their unwanted plant. Such an admission gives the green light to a government sale of their final 40 per cent stake in the generators next July.

The electricity market is becoming increasingly competitive as independent generating capacity comes on stream, and the additional competition is reducing power prices. PowerGen, for example, estimates that its market share will fall to 22 per cent within five years, compared with more than 30 per cent at the time of privatisation, and claims its prices to the electricity distributors have fallen 19 per cent in real terms since 1989. Offer is unsure about how much capacity it will demand that PowerGen and National Power must sell, but inevitably the two companies will try to sell their oldest, least efficient plant and allow the regulator to dress it up as a victory for the consumer.

Apart from laying the ground for another government privatisation, the most positive aspect of Offer's statement yesterday was its swipe at the RECs. These are the true villains of the electricity market, which are exploiting local monopolies to absorb much of the fall in energy prices and pass it to shareholders in higher dividends. Littlechild's comments that he will deal with them in next summer's distribution review only confirms what *Tempus* suggested at the weekend. That RECs' days of milk and honey are ending.

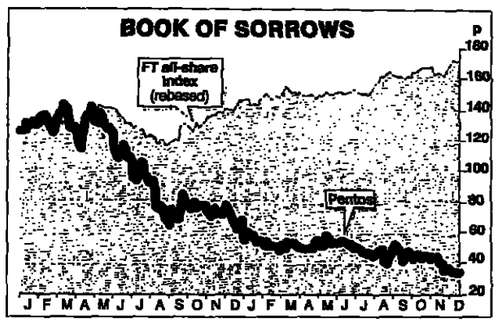
Pentos

LAST September's warning from Pentos now looks like the prologue to a horror story that the company's new chief executive is beginning to read aloud. The over-rapid expansion of Dillons is only part of the tale of mismanagement, and shareholders are promised a more conservative treatment of the group's properties, which in the past accounted for an alarmingly high share of the profits.

More disturbing is the deterioration at Athena, a relic of youth retailing in previous decades whose drop in sales is testimony to its faded appeal. The chain badly needs a revamp but the new team at Pentos will have its hands full dealing with the poor performance of Ryman and the need to get stock moving across the group.

Pentos has been allowed to build up an astonishing debt for a retail group of modest size and one that leant heavily on its suppliers in the past to finance expansion. Running down stocks should have a good impact on its overdraft but shareholders should expect a call on their funds soon to rebuild a balance sheet eroded by losses that could total £10 million for the full year plus provisions.

The long-term support from the group's lenders needed to rebuild the group will come at a price and probably in the form of a debt for equity swap. Thereafter, and providing a market can be found for a refocussed Athena, Pentos could become a profitable niche retailer.



HP Bulmer

BULMER may not be the largest drinks company, but other brewers must look at its position with envy. How many other consumer businesses have a 45 per cent share of a market growing at 10 per cent a year? Cider's taste and generally higher alcoholic content continues to lure drinkers from lager, and the trend is expected to continue throughout the rest of the decade.

A growing market can cover a multitude of corporate sins, but Bulmer looks to be making the most of its good fortune. While its margins could have been eroded by the rising popularity of budget ciders, the group has introduced and developed premium brands such as Scrumpy Jack to counter any downtrading. Overall operating margins are up by almost a percentage point to 10.8 per cent.

Bulmer's shares have been under a small cloud for some time because of worries about the loss of its Perrier and Buxton distribution licences next April. But the group's recent contract to distribute Amstel for Heineken should balance the modest fall in sales.

Bulmer is determined to capitalise on the rise of the cider market and is investing £20 million, three times its depreciation charge, in the current year on moving production to a single site in Hereford. In later years, it plans to increase its orchard acreage by more than half to cope with rising production. This spending will strain cash flow, however, and year-end gearing will be almost 50 per cent. The City would not object to a rights issue to fund such expansion.

At 414p, Bulmer's shares trade on 16 times current year earnings with a forward yield of 3.3 per cent. Not expensive for one of the few good news stories in the brewing sector.

GWR Group

BEHIND the high-profile battles for the ITV franchises, the struggle for market share in local radio continues and yesterday's compendium of deals from GWR suggests the risks and rewards may be just as high even when the game is played by smaller fry. Local radio stations are similar businesses to national TV franchises, enjoying high operational gearing due to the level of fixed costs, suffering in recession but capable of exponential growth when recovery comes.

GWR, which owns stations in Bristol, the West Country and the Isle of Wight reckons it has struck a good formula in squeezing more revenue out of its catchment areas by marketing heavily to local advertisers and not relying on national advertising to pay the bills. GWR's management reckons it can improve the revenue generated per capita audience from 175p for Beacon and 185p at Midlands to GWR's own figure of 250p.

GWR is paying £11 million for Midland, some 21 times historic earnings, a high price but one that pales beside GWR's own rating of 31 times and helps to ensure the deal will enhance earnings, at least in the first year. The risk is that costs will run out of control when the recovery gets going but if GWR can make its formula work in Trent and Leicester the price is justified.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Action groups and Lloyd's settlement offer

From Captain J. N. B Baillie-Hamilton

Sir, It seems clear from Sarah Bagnall's excellent article (December 8) that the success of the Lloyd's offer depends very largely on the outcome of the Gooda Walker and Feltrim Action Groups' meetings.

The total offer to Gooda Walker will be £300 million and to Feltrim some £240 million. This represents 60 per cent of the entire Lloyd's offer.

Rose Thomson Young and Devonshire, two smaller groups, are not far behind, with a total offer of some £110 million, or 12 per cent of the total. If Gooda Walker and Feltrim accept the offer, other LMX Groups will follow suit.

It is difficult to know which way the groups will decide. There will be many hundreds of names who are bankrupt, and no conceivable offer will change this. They have no incentive to accept and might derive some satisfaction if Lloyd's collapsed in a heap.

At the same time, there are many of us who have had quite respectable offers in respect of the LMX syndicates. I, myself, was on four LMX syndicates, and my total offer has, therefore, been increased by 30 per cent. It still represents only about 30 per cent of my total loss, including long tail syndicates, but, nevertheless, will be of considerable help to my solvency.

The long tail syndicates have not fared anything like so well and, apart from Merrett 418 and Outhwaite 317, offers are pretty minimal. The Legal Panel has clearly judged that they have a weak case and the only people likely to benefit significantly from continued litigation will be the lawyers.

I will go along with the recommendations of my main LMX action groups, but I would hope to accept the Lloyd's offer.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL BAILLIE-HAMILTON,
Cambusmore Estate,
Callander,
Perthshire.

Switching out of a company pension scheme sometimes makes sense

From Mr Mark Lloyd

Sir, Your article on the pros and cons of personal pensions (December 11) does not give a balanced argument about transferring a frozen pension from a final salary scheme into a personal pension.

I agree that in many instances it is likely to be better to retain the pension in the former employer's scheme, especially where the amount is small.

However, in many cases switching to a personal pension can be financially advantageous. Broadly speaking, if the investment returns earned on the personal pension exceed the assumed investment return the actuary to the final salary scheme uses to calculate the transfer value of the frozen pension, then the personal pension will give a bigger pension. Many actuaries base this assumed future investment return on the yield available on long-dated gilt edged stock, which currently are yielding less than 7 per cent per annum. Initial commission and expenses must also be allowed for in the equation. Unfortunately, there is no simple answer — each pension scheme and individual's circumstances differ. Finally, a non-financial factor is that many ex-employees would prefer to sever all connection with their previous employer. Also, someone who changes jobs frequently may prefer the relatively tidy position of one final pension than several smaller frozen ones.

Yours faithfully,
MARK LLOYD
(Actuary),
Gissings Actuarial and Advisory Services,
Finsbury House,
23 Finsbury Circus, EC2.

Letters to the Business section of *The Times* can be sent by fax to 071-782 5112.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

George & Vulture gets the chop

THE George & Vulture, one of the City's oldest and best known restaurants, made famous by Charles Dickens' visits, has lost its battle for survival and is due to close on Christmas Eve. The former 18th century coaching house is to be turned into a wine bar (as if we need another one in the Square Mile) by the building's new tenant Samuel Smith, the brewer. Smith is due to start redevelopment of the historic building next year. Regulars, who will miss the bubble 'n' squeak and pork chop specialities, have made up a ditty outlining the fate of their favourite hostelry. It ends on this emotional note: "So goodbye to our club in the passage, as a landmark of yore disappears. We will only be left with fond memories of its friendly staff over the years."

Nicked not stolen

CITY investors have their last chance before Christmas to bid today for wine at Christie's. Eyebrows have been raised though about lots 191 — 192, Chateau Petrus 1978 — not because of the fine quality of this claret from Pomerol — but on account of the catalogue entry. Apparently some of the bottles are described as "Nicked" — surely a reference to damaged labels rather than provenance for a wine expected to realise up to £1,770 per dozen bottles.



"Must have shares in electricity companies"

Stibbon's post

PHILIP Billington's Chemring, the UK defence group whose anti-missile chaff was used to such telling effect by the RAF in the Gulf War, has pulled off something of a coup with its latest non-executive director appointments. As of yesterday, General Sir John Stibbon came on board the Hampshire-based group. Stibbon was previously Master General of the Ordnance in the Army, where he controlled strategy, policy and purchasing procurement. "He has also had lots of experience with Nato," says Billington, "and, as 60 per cent of our business is exports, that expertise should come in handy."

Tales of woe

OUR Christmas award for martyrdom goes to David Hallam, food manufacturing analyst at Williams de Broë, who has clocked up a triple feat. First, he was struck down with flu. Second, he broke his foot on a towel rail at home. And third, he was dictating a letter to his secretary when he sat on a cactus, and can now neither sit nor stand. Ouch!

IN A gesture of seasonal goodwill, British Airways has installed all-women string quartets in its executive lounges at Heathrow. The musicians will be playing throughout the Christmas period.

Wombles return

THE Wombles are back! Storm Group, the media company which owns the rights to the popular cartoon characters from the 1970s, is bringing Orinoco, Wellington and Great Uncle Bulgaria back on everything from sweatshirts, mugs and badges to a new children's comic. The furry critters are also due to appear in a TV advertising campaign for Kraft foods next year.

Waving the francs

THE French, I hear, are about to issue new banknote designs starting with replacements for the 122 million 50 franc notes in circulation. Opinion pollsters found that flying and literature were public favourites to represent the French image, so the Bank of France chose a combination of the two, portraying author and flying ace Antoine de Saint-Exupery and his best known character, the Little Prince. Other notes in the series are 100 francs showing Gustave Eiffel, 200 francs with Louis and Auguste Lumiere, and 500 francs with Pierre and Marie Curie.

In with a chance

FIRST the bad news: the PLC Awards Dinner, hosted by Coopers & Lybrand in association with *The Times*, is sold out, with three months to go before the big night. The good news is that companies who think their annual report and accounts deserve an award still have a chance to submit their entries. Submissions should be sent to Graham Cole, C&L's corporate finance partner, at 1 Embankment Place, London WC2N 6NN.

MY WORST fears about the public relations industry are confirmed in this year's Christmas card from Burson-Marsteller. It features a colourful array of large balloons ... all full of hot air.

JON ASHWORTH

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Grofund Amer	166.30	175.00r	- 0.40	...
Grofund Equity	243.80	258.00	- 0.30	1.59
Grofund Euro	193.10	203.30	- 2.70	...
Grofund Expt Bal	118.10	122.40	+ 5.90	1.22
Grofund Gilt	82.59	85.15	- 0.10	4.41
Grofund Japan	160.80	169.20r	+ 0.30	...

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General Acc	525.50	559.10	- 0.60	2.21
General Inc	473.40	503.70	- 0.60	2.21
UK Growth Acc	357.80	380.70	- 0.40	2.38
UK Growth Inc	320.30	306.90	- 0.40	3.38
Higher Inc Acc	673.40	718.60	- 1.00	3.31
Higher Inc Inc	404.00	429.80	- 0.50	3.31
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	195.40	208.30	- 0.50	5.52
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	99.92	105.50	- 0.20	5.52
Nth America	259.30	275.90	- 2.60	...
Far East	341.80	363.70	+ 0.30	0.02
Europe	260.00	276.70	+ 4.00	0.77
Brit Excell	71.68	76.26r	- 0.12	2.48
Brit Fndmnls Acc	102.40	109.00	- 0.20	4.11
Brit Fndmnls Inc	77.77	82.74	- 0.25	4.11
Global Opps	83.57	88.91r	- 0.19	...
Balanced Acc	94.25	99.77r	- 0.09	2.25
Balanced Inc	53.77	57.21r	- 0.09	2.25

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High Income				
Gilts & Fixed Int	140.70	149.20r	- 0.30	5.36
High Inc Equity	167.60	178.20	- 0.20	4.42
Worldwide Bond	273.50	290.00r	- 0.20	3.62
Capital Growth				
American Growth	300.30	321.10	- 2.80	.98
Asian Pacific	377.30	401.20	+ 4.70	.23
Assets & Earnings	256.30	272.50r	+ 1.10	2.00
Comdty & Energy	116.80	124.90	- 0.80	.44
1992 Enterprise	90.40	96.66	- 0.41	1.99
Euro Capital Inc	122.10	130.50	- 1.50	.74
General	228.80	243.40	- 0.50	2.24
Japan	114.10	122.00	...	...
Mastertrust	137.10	146.60	...	1.27
UK Growth Dist	128.30	136.40	+ 0.40	2.10
US Emerging Cos	128.30	136.50	- 1.60	...
Income & Growth	388.30	413.00r	- 0.80	3.16
Ethical	71.08	75.61	+ 0.24	2.41
International	110.80	117.80	+ 0.30	.42
Dividend & Growth	63.06	67.08	- 0.06	4.19
Global Gwth & Inc	64.25	68.35	+ 0.01	2.78

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Cash	50.00	50.00	...	4.91
European	99.20	105.40	...	...
European Income	95.84	101.70r	...	1.47
Exempt	1000.7	1049.1	...	3.64
Extra Income	52.76	57.38r	...	4.59
Far East Emg Ecn	117.20	120.60	...	0.51
Fixed Interest	24.32	25.99r	...	7.11
Fund Inv Tst	168.90	180.30	...	0.94
Japan	185.00	197.20	...	...
Latin American	66.87	71.00	...	0.71
Pacific	74.54	79.84	...	0.34
Property Share	72.41	77.29	...	1.70
UK Emerging Cos	62.21	66.39	...	1.87
UK Growth	48.42	51.68	...	1.43
World Growth	74.52	79.54r	...	0.69
Ethical	64.74	69.11r	...	2.57
Aberdeen Gilt Inc	55.80	55.80r	...	7.32

ACUMA FUND MANAGERS LTD
5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Essex 0277 690 336

UK Equity Income	93.61	99.59	- 0.06	3.36
UK Equity Growth	81.56	87.21	- 0.01	2.71
European	64.49	68.61	- 0.13	1.43
Nth American	67.08	71.36r	- 0.03	1.02
Far Eastern	67.44	71.74r	+ 0.08	0.28
Money	64.98	64.98	+ 0.01	4.37
Fixed Interest	74.23	78.97	- 0.09	6.70
Index Linked Gilt	70.00	74.47	- 0.03	1.38

AEGON UNIT TRUSTS LTD
28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF
031 549 3322

British Growth	67.90	72.23	- 0.12	2.51
British Income	78.19	83.18	...	3.26
Select Portfolio	83.27	88.59	- 0.22	...

Formerly AEtna

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
101 Kings Road Brentwood CM14 4DR
0452 305 958

Amity Income	76.76	81.44	...	2.01
Income Builder Inc	68.47	72.84r	...	2.80

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC
Allied Dunbar Centre, Swindon SN1 1EL
IFA dlg: 0793 610 366 Client dlg: 0793 514 514

Growth & Income	246.80	263.50	+ 1.80	2.86
Capital	414.70	443.30	+ 3.00	1.78
Balanced	693.10	740.90r	+ 5.10	2.31
Accumulator	1264.0	1351.0	+12.00	2.85
Income Trusts				
American Income	50.23	53.69	- 0.07	3.07
High Income	434.70	464.60	+ 3.20	3.40
Equity Income	245.50	262.40	+ 1.70	3.29
High Yield	367.30	385.90r	+ 1.90	3.39
Govt Securities	39.81	37.80	- 0.06	4.74
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	136.10	145.40	- 0.50	0.17
European Growth	31.98	33.98	- 0.18	0.44
International	154.80	165.20	+ 0.60	0.36
Japan	188.30	201.00r	+ 0.10	0.01
Pacific	441.00	470.80	+ 0.90	0.12
Sect of America	425.60	452.90r	- 2.90	0.54
Wwide Asset Val	45.58	48.72	+ 0.08	0.16
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	542.30	579.40r	+ 4.30	2.14
Conv & Gilt	49.02	52.40	+ 0.19	3.84
Smaller Cos	167.80	179.30	+ 0.40	1.21
2nd Smaller Cos	159.30	170.20	+ 0.30	1.20
Recovery	138.00	147.50	+ 0.70	1.97
Met Min & Ordy	152.10	162.50r	+ 1.00	0.77
Owned Earnings	344.40	370.30r	+ 2.60	2.19
Technology	153.90	166.50	+ 0.10	0.07
UK Special Sits	444.80	475.40	+ 2.60	2.04

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
Manor Royal, Crawley RH10 2QP 0293 526 911

Conrod Oui Pens	98.76	102.60	...	1.45
Foundtn Pend Pens	63.56	65.97	...	4.00

BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD
28 St John's Sq, London EC1M 4AE
071 251 6767

Capital	73.78	78.48	- 0.46	1.98
International	61.73	65.67	+ 1.05	0.51

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
1 Rutland Court, Edinburgh EH3 8EY
031 222 4242

America	299.40	322.60r	...	...
Bond	130.30	137.00	...	5.76
Brit Smlr Cos	94.47	100.50	...	1.00
Comm & Gen	61.96	66.13	...	5.28
Energy	425.10	462.40r	...	0.26
Europe	215.60	229.20r	...	0.66
Euro Smlr Cos	94.67	100.70	...	1.20
Income Growth	342.70	365.70r	...	4.20
Japan	305.30	324.60r	...	...
Pacific	119.10	126.70r	...	0.64
UK Smlr Cos	47.98	51.04	...	2.94
Japan Fd	698.70	718.70	...	...
Mngd Fd	175.90	187.10	...	2.59

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
36 Queen St, London EC4R 1BN 071 489 6673

Brit & Gwsa	298.40	310.90	+ 3.00	1.14
Capital Gwth	116.20	122.30	- 0.30	2.21
Wwide Opps	197.50	207.90	- 0.50	0.46

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
11 Broadway, Stratford E15 4BB 081 534 5544
Balanced

Rtn Inv Pd Inc	350.70	366.30	- 0.80	2.71
European Bd Inc	101.00	104.60	...	7.14
Exempt	77.50	82.77	- 0.11	3.91
Financial	75.47	80.71r	- 0.13	2.37
500.00	444.00	472.30	+ 0.30	2.52
General	278.90	296.10	+ 0.60	2.50
Property	343.10	360.00r	...	6.12
Trustee	189.00	202.20	- 0.10	3.30
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.80	100.80	...	4.61
Extra Income	119.50	127.80	- 0.20	4.11
Gilt & Fxd Int	63.50	65.62r	- 0.03	7.69
Income	548.10	586.20	- 1.30	3.94
Income Builder	69.77	72.04	- 0.01	4.90
Intl Income	68.75	73.14	- 0.13	2.83
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	239.30	128.30	...	2.56
Leisure	115.40	123.40	- 0.60	1.57
Recovery	408.40	436.80	- 1.00	2.61
Smllr Cos Inc	39.78	42.66	+ 0.03	2.22
Special Sits	272.00	291.90	- 1.10	1.97
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	132.00	141.10r	- 0.90	0.22
Asia Acc	236.80	251.90	- 0.50	1.44
Asia Inc	148.20	157.60r	- 0.30	1.44
Euro Gwth Inc	133.20	143.20	- 1.60	0.45
Japan & Gen Inc	169.10	179.10	- 0.40	...
Japan Spec Sits	73.85	78.23	- 0.24	...
Unit Tech Inc	73.93	78.57	- 0.14	0.48
Worldwide	169.00	179.40	- 0.50	0.39

BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD
PO Box 158, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4DQ
081 658 9002

American Growth	98.39	104.40	- 0.90	0.10
Amer Smllr Cos	130.90	140.50	- 0.70	...
Cash Trust	50.26	50.26r	+ 0.01	4.90
Convertibles	56.81	62.39	+ 0.01	5.60
Eastern	288.70	311.10	+ 1.00	1.60
Equity Income	93.59	99.36	+ 0.18	5.00
European Growth	275.40	292.70	+ 5.70	1.50
Extra Income	189.60	201.20	+ 0.90	1.50
German Growth	73.90	78.62	- 0.77	0.20
Global Bond	71.22	75.12	...	5.30
Global Growth	125.90	134.40r	- 0.70	...
Japan Growth	196.40	210.10	+ 0.20	...
Japan Smaller	190.40	203.80	- 0.17	0.27
Korea Trust	66.46	70.01	+ 1.15	...
Portfolio	134.00	143.30	- 0.10	2.00
UK Growth	91.84	97.73	- 0.28	2.80
UK Smaller Cos	89.37	95.58	- 0.48	1.90
Select Managers	74.66	79.84	- 0.15	2.00

BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD
20-24 Old Street, London EC1V 9HL

Intl Gwth Port Inc	78.93	81.84	...	...
Special Oppor Inc	51.50	54.70	...	...

BREWIN DOLPHIN UT MGRS LTD
5 Glasgow St, London EC1A 9DE 071 236 6441

Special Sits	172.30	184.30	- 1.70	0.51
Dividend	84.08	89.92	+ 0.68	4.25
Int Gth & Inc	228.40	244.30	+ 1.10	2.60
UK & Gen	43.61	46.70	- 0.18	1.33
Fund of Funds	65.58	70.11	+ 0.26	...

BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD
50 Bothwell Street, Glasgow G2 6HR

Balanced Growth	107.59	114.86	- 0.09	1.58
Smaller Cos	98.47	102.11	+ 0.21	1.03
Higher Yield	45.02	48.15	+ 0.02	3.01
American Gth Inc	60.66	73.42	+ 0.25	...
European Growth	120.01	128.35	+ 1.57	0.17
Global Bond Inc	31.42	33.13r	+ 0.04	4.86
Mixed Ptolio Inc	41.71	44.61	- 0.03	1.06

BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
IT Foodwatch St, London EC3M 5AL
071 480 7236

Short Dated Gilt	70.39	71.34	...	4.89

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
PO Box 105, Manchester M60 0AH
061 857 5058

Inv Trust	146.40	155.80r	- 0.60	1.42
UK Growth	163.60	174.20	- 0.20	1.85
UK Income	138.80	147.70	- 0.10	3.76

CANADA LIFE UNIT TST MGRS LTD
High St, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA
0707 651 122

Can Gen Dist	189.00	200.30	- 0.60	1.81
do- Income Dist	113.90	120.70	- 0.30	4.42
Gilt & Fxd Int	45.79	48.53	- 0.02	5.60

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
35 Fountain Street, Manchester M2 2AF
061 236 5685 Enq: 061 236 5685 Dlg: 061 236 5562
Exeter Dealings: 0800 414 161

American & Gen	145.90	153.70	- 0.40	...
European Inc	74.88	79.27	- 1.25	0.75
Far East & Gen	63.85	67.95	+ 0.33	...
Smaller Cos (4-1)	75.70	80.54	+ 0.04	1.58
Growth	423.00	452.50	+ 1.10	2.15
Income & Growth	429.30	454.60	+ 2.10	3.39
Money Portfolio	10854	110598	-61.00	1.95
Special Sits	96.52	102.69	+ 0.13	2.12
High Yield	1364.0	1407.0r	- 2.00	3.91

CAPITAL HOUSE UNIT TST MGRS
Capital House, Festival Square, Edinburgh
031 228 4477 Dealings: 0800 833 564

American Gwth Tst	37.39	39.98	- 0.27	0.92
Cash Income	50.16	50.16r	+ 0.01	5.02
European Gwth	37.76	40.26	- 0.56	0.87
Income & Gwth Inc	28.52	30.50	- 0.01	4.06
Intnl Gwth	30.80	32.94	- 0.14	0.78
Japan Gwth	25.30	27.05	- 0.06	...
Managed Tst Inc	49.37	52.80	- 0.01	3.50
Oriental Opps Inc	162.60	173.80	- 0.40	0.57
Property Shares	43.18	46.18r	- 0.04	1.76
Smaller Cos	29.38	31.42	- 0.74	1.68
UK Growth Tst	25.73	27.51	+ 0.03	2.74
Royal Scottish Assurance				
Cap Hse Global Inc	72.76	77.81	- 0.42	1.65
Cap Hse UK Inc	68.40	73.15r	- 0.06	2.34
Exempt	23.59	24.28	...	...
Formerly Brown Shipley				
European Inc	28.11	26.85	- 0.35	0.40
European Acc	26.04	27.85	- 0.40	0.40
Financial	148.00	158.20	- 0.60	2.57
Foundation	86.96	93.00	- 0.08	2.74
German	50.11	53.59r	- 0.50	0.07
High Income	79.86	85.41r	+ 0.03	5.08
Income	134.90	144.20	- 0.90	3.82
Intl Growth	37.88	40.51	- 0.23	0.16
Managed Ptolio Inc	102.50	109.60	- 0.20	1.69
Mngd Ptolio Acc	105.00	112.30	- 0.40	1.69
Monthly Income	89.42	96.07	- 0.26	3.74
North American	109.30	116.80	- 0.20	0.16
Orient	143.10	153.00	+ 0.30	...

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
3 Copthall Avenue, London EC2R 7BH
071 606 0708

Cazenove Portfolio	82.12	87.83	+ 0.31	2.21
American Portfolio	90.02	96.07r	+ 0.05	1.00
European Portfolio	92.22	98.05	+ 0.05	1.03
Japanese Portfolio	61.96	66.02	+ 0.15	...
Pacific Portfolio	142.78	153.53r	+ 0.90	0.71
UK Inc & Growth	74.21	79.57	+ 0.25	3.75
Utility & Bond	60.19	60.99r	+ 0.27	5.91

CENTURY UNIT TRUSTS LTD
5 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7BA 071 332 5000
UK General Tst: 67.56 71.55 - 0.09 2.80
Global Tst: 60.99 64.88 - 0.05 0.30
Recovery Tst: 69.17 73.58 + 0.03 1.79

CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD
151 Farringdon Rd, London EC1R 3AD
071 837 7667

Intl Growth	138.83	149.90r	+ 3.80	...
UK Growth	128.31	136.15	+ 2.40	1.18
UK Income	108.20	117.35r	+ 0.20	4.15

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
1 White Hart Yard, London Bridge SE1
071 407 5966

Beckman Intl	91.83	97.06	...	1.72
Beck Bio-Tech	41.61	44.27f	...	...
Accrn Global Tst	154.10	162.30r	...	1.15
City Fin Assets	70.20	73.89	...	1.66
City Fin America	80.59	84.83	- 0.88	...
City Fin Intl	74.51	78.43r	- 0.78	0.50
City Fin Japan	196.34	164.57	- 3.81	...
Friars Hse Cap	268.18	282.29	...	4.30
Friars Hse Inc	306.36	318.37f	...	4.90
Buckley Wrld Gwth	135.40	144.04	+ 2.92	0.69
Fidrmnt Cap Gth	137.90	145.18r	...	...
do- Inc & Gth	115.96	122.06f	...	1.63
Fidrmount Intl	153.37	161.44f	...	...
City Fin Ptflo Inc	61.55	65.48f	...	3.41

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
10 Eastcheap, London EC3M 1AJ 0892 412 144
Emerging Markets: 55.80 59.21 + 0.54 ...

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH (0800 373 393

American Gwth	56.85	61.29	- 0.57	...
Atlas Mngd Gwth	36.74	39.51	- 0.22	0.13
Dragon Growth	77.44	82.32	- 0.44	0.37
Equity Right Inc	85.66	90.34r	- 0.23	3.16
European Gwth	47.07	49.94	- 0.72	0.83
Evergreen	29.37	31.41	- 0.09	...
General Equity	94.16	89.39	- 0.09	2.15
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	28.08	29.81	- 0.06	7.88
Japan Growth	44.09	47.49	- 0.09	...
Pedigree Gwth	50.07	53.12	- 0.09	2.05
Ped Sm Cos Inc	30.58	32.45	- 0.08	0.82
Retirement Inc	28.93	28.96	- 0.04	5.19
Special Sits	35.83	38.32	+ 0.02	1.87
UK & Overseas	49.21	52.21	- 0.11	1.04

COLONIAL MUTUAL UT MGRS LTD
Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY
0634 898 000

Capital	65.19	69.72	- 0.13	2.75
Income	63.01	67.39	- 0.02	3.69

COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL LTD
Exchange Court, 3 Bedford Park,
Croydon CR0 2AQ 081 686 9818
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)

Income Funds				
Equity Inc	165.54	176.11	- 0.41	5.02
Fixed & Convertible	47.16	50.17	+ 0.03	5.66
Monthly Inc Plus	53.43	56.84	+ 0.04	7.88
Performance Inc	52.18	55.51	+ 0.04	6.85
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	133.74	142.28	- 0.46	5.77
Managed Fund	66.56	72.94	- 0.26	2.76
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	39.25	41.76	- 0.09	1.97
UK & General	78.00	82.98	- 0.19	2.61
UK Growth	135.11	143.73	- 0.22	1.62
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	174.56	185.49	- 2.46	...
Far Eastern Gwth	134.38	144.38	+ 1.01	0.28
Global Bond	88.19	93.72	- 0.04	5.70
Japan Growth	110.18	117.21	+ 0.05	...
North Amer Gwth	161.07	171.35	- 0.95	...
Oriental Growth	87.19	92.75	- 0.39	...
Worldwide Growth	62.43	66.41	- 0.43	0.25
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.20	92.20	+ 0.01	4.74
Homegrower Fund	77.28	82.21	+ 0.11	1.86
Quilter Fund	137.74	146.53	- 0.20	2.05

CONFEDERATION FUNDS MGMT LTD
Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN
0438 744 848

Growth Inc	58.27	61.98	- 0.07	3.90
High Income	34.62	36.82	- 0.01	4.40
Japan	32.51	34.57	+ 0.15	...
Smaller Cos Inc	29.07	30.92r	- 0.09	2.40
Smaller Cos	30.23	32.18r	+ 0.10	2.40
North American	32.03	34.04	+ 0.15	0.70
European	34.61	36.81	- 0.36	0.60

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
1 White Hart Yd, London Bridge SE1 1NX
071 407 5966

Consistent UT	31.38	33.70	...	4.39

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
1 King St, Manchester M60 3AH 0800 526 398

Growth	134.80	143.53f	+ 0.20	2.05
Income	76.12	80.98	+ 0.09	4.23
European	56.35	59.95f	- 0.47	0.91
Recovery	139.40	137.70	- 0.20	1.88

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
78-80 Cornhill, London EC3V 3NJ 071 283 0494
Equity Dist: 828.20 862.20r ... 3.60

CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD
5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex
0277 690 370

Fellowship Tst	70.03	74.51	- 0.36	1.66
Income	241.00	256.40	- 0.10	3.32
Smaller Cos	137.00	145.80	- 0.20	0.96
Inv Portfolio	76.96	81.88	- 0.15	1.93
High Income Port	69.09	73.50	+ 0.01	3.31

DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD
155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3XS
071 638 0777

Euro Small Cos	1382.2	1410.2r	...	...
Japan Small Cos	1038.1	1058.9r	...	...
UK Small Cos	1631.0	1703.5	...	...
US Small Cos	1592.4	1639.1r	...	...

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
66 Wilson Street, London EC2A 2BL
071 377 0899

Disc Inc	182.60	192.20f	...	2.96

DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD
25, Rawelston Terrace, Edinburgh 031 315 2000

European Gwth	257.60	251.30	- 4.10	1.19
New Asia	292.60	299.80	+ 0.70	0.33
Japan Growth	115.40	122.90	...	...
Jap Smllr Co	467.70	498.40	- 1.30	...
Nth Amer	242.60	257.00	- 1.60	0.05
Global Asia Pac Mf	124.50	131.80	- 1.40	0.47
UK Inc & Gth	219.40	234.20	- 0.10	3.48

EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD
Bath Road, Cheltenham GL53 7LQ 0242 577 555

UK Balanced Inc	139.20	148.20r	- 0.40	2.22
UK High Inc Inc	153.90	163.70r	- 0.40	5.61
UK Pref & Fixed Int	64.33	68.20r	- 0.03	6.46
Envtrnmntl Opps	79.54	84.62	- 0.24	1.45

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
37 Hanoverfield Terrace, Edinburgh
0345 090 336

American	119.60	127.30r	- 0.10	0.39
Convertibles	23.45	24.92	- 0.03	7.83
Equity Income	136.30	144.80r	- 0.10	3.45
EuroFund	43.98	46.54	+ 0.50	0.86
Financial	49.64	52.96	- 0.14	2.29
Growth & Inc	240.10	255.10	- 1.30	2.94
High Dist	161.20	171.30r	- 0.50	4.38
International	373.30	396.60	- 0.50	0.82
Intl Income	95.80	102.30	- 0.10	2.54
Latin American	43.26	45.96	- 0.17	0.27
Pacific	86.02	91.40	- 0.43	0.33
Preference Share	28.47	27.06	- 0.04	5.73
Tokyo	195.10	207.00	+ 0.30	...
UK Smaller Cos	225.70	239.80	+ 1.10	0.94

ELCON LTD
Central Ct, Knoll Rise, Orpington BR6 0JA
0689 70588

Elcon Trust	215.00	230.00	...	...

ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD
41 Harrington Gardens, London SW7 4JU
071 373 7261

Endurance Fd	197.70	210.30	...	0.44

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
Walton St, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 7QN
0296 431 488

European	73.90	77.79	+ 0.17	1.68
Far Eastern	314.36	330.78	+ 0.59	1.39
High Income	138.42	145.59	+ 1.28	4.34
Intl Growth	116.32	122.44	+ 0.56	1.09
North American	115.49	121.57	+ 0.48	0.93
Pelican	119.61	125.91	+ 0.91	2.96
Smaller Cos	70.85	74.59	- 0.15	2.61
Special Sits	87.88	92.51	+ 0.27	1.93
Tst of Inv Tsts	180.69	190.20	+ 0.43	1.97

EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD
1 White Hart Yard, London Bridge SE1
071 407 5966

Smaller Cos Inc	189.18	199.06	- 0.20	1.70
Smaller Cos Acc	327.51	341.16	- 0.50	1.70
Recovery	47.14	49.19	- 0.17	2.26

EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD
23 Cathedral Yard, Exeter EX1 1HB
0392 412 144

Balanced	133.64	128.13f	...	4.88
Capital Growth	79.71	85.49	- 0.06	...
Fd of Inv Tsts	43.02	46.85	- 0.24	0.24
High Income	49.51	52.02	+ 0.02	8.34
Warrant	59.75	64.95	+ 0.25	...
Zero Preference	37.52	39.81r	+ 0.03	...

FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
16 West Street, Brighton BN1 2RE 0273 220 787

Family Asset Tst	73.43	78.11	...	2.60
Family Income Tst	51.08	54.33	...	6.00
Family Trust	79.66	84.76	...	1.70
United Charities	248.60	264.40r	...	3.50

FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD
130 Tonbridge Rd, Tonbridge TN11 0DZ
Calltree Private Clients: 0800 414 161
Broker Dealings: 0800 414 181

Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00	...	4.90
Stabiliser Growth Range				
Convertible Risk UK	25.21	26.56	...	3.11
-do- Europe	24.70	26.02	- 0.02	4.92
-do- America	23.81	25.10	- 0.01	0.53
-do- Asr Japan	28.16	29.61	- 0.07	0.76
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	31.91	32.20r	+ 0.02	6.20
Intl Bond	32.77	34.16	- 0.06	4.90
Income Funds				
High Income	28.11	29.58r	+ 0.02	4.84
Income Plus	122.90	129.40r	- 0.50	5.36
Amer Eq Inc	47.81	50.69	+ 0.17	0.69
European Income	42.04	44.71	- 0.25	2.60
Far East Inc	65.48	70.16r	- 0.19	2.36
Global Convertible	24.34	25.86	+ 0.11	2.26
Equity Funds				

Futures-led rise

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 13. Dealings end December 31. §Contango day January 4. Settlement day January 10. §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1993 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
487	345	Abbey Nat	485	+ 3	11.8	3.2	17.9
240	179	Allied Irish	228	...	...	...	...
2364	130	Aust New Z	216	...	...	3.7	14.2
380½	271½	Bankamerica	303½	+3½	...	4.0	∞
295	177	Bk of Ireland	276	...	...	...	...
350	325	Bk Scotland Ut	350	...	17.0	6.1	...
230½	116½	Bank Scotland	229	+ 3	4.6	2.5	31.1
646	362	Barclays	612	...	...	2.5	...
4½	2	Benchmark	4½	...	...	2.6	...
27½	15½	Clydesdale	26½	...	...	...	5.9
598	395	Cazer Allen	591 †	- 2	28.0	5.9	...
153	85	Canies	151	+ 1	...	...	...
2487½	1787½	Chase Manh	22125	+25	...	3.7	20.1
2610	1343½	Citicorp	2350	+12½	...	...	...
485	250	Close Bros	485	...	...	2.8	17.6
9155	9275	Commerzbk	6146½	-75	...	2.7	...
6346	6250½	Deutsche Bk	6334½	-112½	...	1.8	...
95	45	First Nat Fin	56½	- 1½	...	1.8	...
1651	876	Fuji Bank Y	1401	...	...	1.1	...
529	345	Gerrard Nat	452	...	...	...	...
832	490	HSBC	651	...	21.5	5.9	12.0
841	474	HSBC HK	836	+12	20.0	3.0	19.9
403	243	Hambros	373	+ 1	20.0	4.6	20.0
439	313	Joseph (L)	418 †	...	14.5	4.8	17.2
655	482	Lloyds	639	+12	16.1	3.7	18.8
118	63	Lon Scot Bk	94	...	2.9	3.0	18.3
575	322	Nat Aust Bk	542	- 3	...	4.0	∞
620	368	Nat West	597	+ 4	17.8	3.7	36.3
460	270	Provident	444	+ 4	11.7	2.6	22.6
64	39	Rea Bros	54	+ 1	12.4	3.5	19.2
462	207	Rtl Bk Scot	439 †	+ 5	...	1.1	57.4
535	467½	Schroders	1250 †	+ 7	...	3.1	23.5
1259	576	Stand Chan	1179	-16	20.5	1.3	25.3
250	145½	TSB	245	- 3	6.4	3.3	...
940	529	Union Disc	164	...	...	...	...
940	529	Warburg SG	881	+ 6	...	3.8	12.9
3600	4843½	Wells Fargo	8710½	+12½	...	2.5	...
325	188	Westpac	309	+ 1	...	4.5	...
		Wmstwn	315	...	9.3	3.7	28.2

BREWERIES

646	517	Allied-Lyons	625 †	+ 7	...	4.3	17.3
647	441	Bass	553 †	+10	...	4.5	15.0
299	169	Boddington	282	...	7.5	3.4	16.4
459	362	Bulmer (HP)	414	...	...	4.3	16.4
184	129	Burtonwd Brw	175	...	4.7	3.4	14.6
144	75	Eldridge P A'a	143	...	...	3.2	∞
70½	50	Fosters Brewing	60	- 1	...	4.4	...
635	358	Fullr Sm A'a	618	...	7.5	2.3	17.8
480	373	Grand Met	451	+ 1	12.7	2.3	17.8
627	547	Greenalls Grp	626	+14	...	3.2	14.4
575	505	Greene King	545	- 3	...	3.9	15.1
521	388	Guinness	477	+12	...	3.2	17.8
281	230	Hardy Hanson	232	...	...	3.1	32.2
138	105	Heavitree A	135	...	8.5	4.7	∞
353	255	Highland Dist	337	+ 8	...	2.4	16.1
3138	2538	Holt J	3125	...	42.0	1.7	20.4
80	33	Hoskins Brew	78	...	...	...	56.2
323	250	Invrgordn Dist	301	...	...	2.9	17.2
186	118	Macallan-Glen	133	+ 3	4.3	4.1	29.9
375	273	Macdn Mann 'A'	365	+10	...	2.8	18.8
225	164	Marstfield	194 †	...	...	...	...
299	231	Mason Tlmp	282	...	...	2.6	13.9
557	388½	Matthew Clark	557	...	...	2.5	15.7
300	210	Mtydwn W	230 †	- 3	7.0	4.0	18.6
580	456	Morland	508	- 5	...	3.8	18.2
12	6	Mrzmmune	8	...	...	2.5	17.5
307	146	Regent Inns	207	...	...	2.1	∞
1240	753	SA Breweries	1243 †	...	...	2.7	23.0
554	393	Scot & New	541	+ 6	...	4.0	16.4
225	155	Tauntun Cider	171 †	+ 3½	6.2	4.6	13.7
283	213	Vaux Group	276	- 1	9.5	4.4	∞
357	225	Wetherspoon JD	325	...	...	2.1	25.2
587	436	Whitbread 'A'	587	+13	...	3.8	14.1
613	463	Wolvrhmptn D	523 †	...	12.6	3.0	∞
515	475	Young 'A'	485	...	14.7	3.8	20.1

BUILDING, ROADS

140	73	Abbey	140	...	...	1.8	23.0
25½	12½	Albrightson A	19	...	...	...	...
149	87	Allen A	146 †	- 2	...	0.7	...
120	65	Amec	115	+ 1	3.0	3.3	21.3
4	1	Anglia Sec	3½	...	...	...	...
326	150	Ashtead A	323	...	...	...	...
143	101	Atwoods	134	...	...	1.8	34.2
326	180	BPB Ind	324	+ 2	...	2.9	38.0
98	57	Baggeridge Brk	94	+ 2	3.1	4.3	∞
31	18	Bailey (Ben) Con	26	...	0.6	2.9	...
108	78	Barcrm	88	...	1.2	1.8	15.4
56½	32½	Bardon	42	...	2.0	5.0	20.7
216	94	Barratt Devs	214	+ 1	4.0	2.3	∞
464	305	Bellway	464	+ 4	12.0	3.2	∞
43	15	Bellwinch	41	...	...	...	...
305	255½	Berkeley Gp	497½	+12½	...	1.6	26.7
79	45	Beni Bros	108	...	...	2.3	13.9
68	36	Blockleys	51	+ 4	1.0	2.5	58.3
355	189	Blue Circle	336	+ 2	...	4.3	...
285	200	Boot (Henry)	273	...	6.0	2.7	15.3
10p	7p	Brendon PLC	9	+ 1	4.6	6.2	22.9
131	82	Br Dredging	130	...	5.2	5.0	28.9
86	65	Brk Fittings	80	...	1.7	2.2	...
163	99	Bryant	161	- ½	...	3.7	32.5
125	53	CALA	122	...	...	2.4	...
342	200	CRH	342	+ 2	...	2.5	18.8
43	18	Calebrssd Rby	30	...	...	...	...
41½	21	Costain	26	- ½	...	...	...
150	86½	Countryside	150	+ 3	...	3.3	∞
100	38	Crest Nicholson	97	...	0.0	...	...
112	27	Cussins	102	...	...	1.2	...
2	1½	Dunmore	5½	...	...	...	...
25	15	Edmund Hdgs	19	...	0.3	2.0	...
285	178	Eperin	273	...	7.0	3.2	23.1
59	32	Erith	55	...	0.3	0.8	...
50p	25p	Eve Group A	40	-10	...	2.9	16.5
5	2½	Explosive A	4½	...	...	...	...
140	97	Freeman Gps	133	...	...	4.7	21.2
50	38	Galliford	38	...	...	3.3	...
81	52	Gibbs & Dandy	79	...	...	3.2	...
923	695	Gleeson (M J)	910	...	...	1.8	15.8
164	90	Hewden-Stuart	156	...	...	2.5	27.8
51	28	Hewetson	46	...	...	3.4	33.6
404	186	Heywd Wms	402	...	13.0	4.3	...
119	37	Higgs & Hill	111	...	2.5	3.6	...
38	26	How Gp	28	...	...	5.0	...
21	15	Howard Rdgs	21	...	0.5	3.0	...
78	39	Ibstock Johnsen	73	+ 1	1.0	1.7	...
199½	125½	Ibstock	135½	...	...	...	...
31p	19p	Laing (J)	30½	...	0.0	3.7	12.3
127½	103	-do- 6.6% Cv Pf	130½	...	...	6.6	...
110	55	Ln Clydesdale	110	...	4.5	5.1	41.4
22	10½	Lovell (Y J)	15½	...	...	...	7.0
350	240	Manders	326	+ 6	9.3	3.5	20.6
183	93	Marley	180	+ 1	4.2	2.9	52.8
127	61	Marshalls	126	+ 1	...	4.0	...
190	122	Maunders (J)	186	- 1	...	3.4	18.2
221	99	McAlpine (A)	221	+ 1	6.5	3.7	38.3
47	29	McCarthy & S	42	...	0.5	1.5	...
514	272	Meyer Int	514	+10	...	2.4	51.5
129	62	Mowlem (J)	125	...	4.0	4.0	...
165	51	NSM	154	...	...	...	...
53	48	Needler A	48	...	...	3.7	22.4
171	106	Newarthill Tnks	167	...	...	5.3	21.0
300	197	Pershmmon	297	+15	8.6	3.0	30.3
26	10	Phoenix Timber	10	...	...	...	...
1725	1237½	Pocalns	1550	...	28.0	2.4	21.8
171	80	Browning	171	+ 4	3.4	2.5	...
6½	1½	Queensbry A	1½	...	...	...	...
938	555	RMC Gp	930	+28	...	2.7	34.9
117	75½	Raine Ind	84	+ 2	...	4.5	19.9
36	18	Ramsus A	23	...	...	...	...
603	402	Redland	572	- 5	25.0	5.3	33.3
86	64	Rexcel	80	...	4.5	6.7	11.8
319	207	Rugby Group	315	+ 5	6.4	2.6	24.1
68	23	Swfld-Bvns	62	- 1	...	0.5	...
68	58	Sharpe & Fisher	162	...	...	3.1	28.2
870	864	Sheffield Ind	355	+ 1	...	2.6	62.6
89	83	Sheriff Hdgs A	109	+17	...	2.4	∞
705	66	Shorco	93	...	...	7.0	21.1
240	196	Smart (J)	225	+ 3	...	4.7	17.0
6½	1½	Sarmin	1½	...	...	...	...
160	100	Tarmac	158	- 1	5.5	4.4	...
186	131	Tay Homes	164 †	...	...	4.5	30.3
139	63	Taylor Woodrw	136	+ 3	1.0	0.9	...
633	433	Tilbury Dougls	615	...	33.0	6.7	20.0
39	19	Torex Hire	35	...	...	1.4	...
298	168	Travis Perkins	287	...	8.0	3.4	52.3
40	25	Try Group	28	...	1.0	4.5	7.9
28	21	Tudor A	21	...	...	...	...
93	41	Vibroplant	88	...	2.5	3.6	30.9
65	20	Ward Hdgs	47	+ 1	...	...	...
36	25	Waterhouse	33	...	...	...	...
475	360	Watts Blake	430	...	...	3.5	18.5
21½	6½	Wescol A	20	...	...	...	...
181	90	Westbury	180	...	5.0	3.5	28.1
13	4½	West Scaffold A	7	...	...	...	...
4½	3	Wiggins	3½	...	...	...	...
464	362	Wilson Bowtn	462	+ 1	...	2.4	32.5
228	147	Wilson (C)	186	+ 3	3.9	2.6	32.2
194	104	Wimpey G	167	- 3	...	3.9	...
47	15	YRM	19	...	0.5	3.3	...

BUSINESS SERVICES

675	463	ADT	582	+ 4	...	...	...
253	198	Adam & Harvey	250	...	13.0	6.5	4.6
92	56	Air Londnn A	61	...	...	2.2	10.9
2	56	Alfred Lane	44	...	2.0	5.7	...
178	93	Asso Sec	128	+ 2	...	9.0	22.9
139½	84	BET Ord	139½	+ 2	...	2.0	5.6
115	41	BNB Res	114	- ½	4.9	5.4	...
318	183	BPP	270	+ 3	8.3	4.5	12.7
285	195	Barbour Index	280	...	8.0	4.2	18.4
28	15	Boustead	23	...	0.7	3.8	...
369	184	Brit Data Mgt	216	- 6	4.7	2.7	15.7
36	11	Broadcastlne	22	...	...	1.4	17.5
94	59	Brooks Service	94	...	...	1.7	...
119	86	CPT Gp	97	...	...	3.8	17.1
193	139½	Capita Group	191	...	...	1.5	29.8
459	31	Caskes Plc	409†	+ ½	...	2.8	15.6
58	18½	Chiltern Capital	27½	...	...	...	...
70	26	Chrisoe	70	...	...	...	...
384	228	Chubb Sec	353 †	+ 4	...	1.9	21.9
116	90	Comac A	110	+ 1	...	1.7	28.7
38	6½	Corp Services	28	...	...	...	...
91	33	Count Contig	81	...	...	...	...
142	50	Cntrl Sec	138 †	- 2	3.3	3.0	18.7
256	198	Davis Service	217	...	...	6.6	16.3
134	85	EW Facs	124	...	4.4	4.5	14.2
21	11	Gardiner	26	...	0.4	2.0	18.0
277	215	Hays	259	...	...	2.6	22.6
248	174	Hogg Robinsn	226	...	...	3.6	17.2
70	34	Holmes Protctn	39	...	...	...	2.4
252	127	Hoskin Wtamp	212	- 5	...	1.8	20.1
2175	975	ISS A DKr	2175	...	...	0.9	15.0
657	475	Inchcape	544	+12	...	3.3	17.7
975	669	Johnson Clean	868	...	25.7	3.7	18.9
12	2½	Lep	7	...	...	...	...
238	173	Miller Gp	225	+ 1	...	3.5	1.8
1167	893	Manpower	1078	-21	...	...	...
62	40½	Michael Page	59	...	1.8	3.0	35.1
279	115	Pennan	115	...	...	8.7	4.3
4½	2	Prime People A	3½	...	...	...	...
147	57	Proudlock Alex	63	...	...	29.8	3.5
423	337	RCO	370	...	14.1	4.8	12.7
118	86	REA	96	...	2.0	2.6	...
108	43	Reed Executive	95	...	...	...	...
156	105	Reliance Secs	105	- 1	...	5.4	22.8
238	178	Rensmkli	219	+ 4	2.5	1.4	27.5
250	220	Rolfe & Nolan	250 †	...	...	3.2	16.4
399	318	Rshcan (C)	335 †	...	...	3.0	21.6
59	26	Scott Pickford A	35	...	...	2.9	11.2
10	5	Select Appts	7½	...	...	...	...
1278	695	Serco Gp	1270	+10	13.3	1.3	39.1
352	83	Sherwd Comps	104	...	...	8.4	3.0
130	90	Shrtridge	99	...	...	3.8	22.6
355	310	Warner Howrd	325	...	6.6	2.6	17.0
45	27	Welpac	28	...	...	...	...
28	14	Wills Gp	25½	...	...	2.0	17.8

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

248	210	Allied Colloids	229	- 1	...	2.4	21.0
998	613	Amersham	998	+ 5	...	1.7	28.7
7	1½	Anglo Ind	2	...	...	...	...
£113¼	83p	BASF DM	£108¾	+1.34½	...	6.1	...
301	199	BTP	300 †	...	...	4.0	24.1
£140¾	£101¼	Bayer DM50	£136¾	-59½	...	4.0	...
178	113	Blagden	113	- 8	6.5	7.2	12.2
165	93	Brent Chems	118	...	...	7.8	10.8
530	345	Br Bio-Tech	390	...	...	...	...
29	5	Caird Gp	9½	+ ½	...	22.2	16.0
180	126	Canning (W)	145	- 7	7.2	6.3	16.6
608	421	Courtaulds	487	...	...	3.8	11.7
347	228	Croda	331	...	...	3.0	19.0
149	115	Doeflex	115	- 1	4.6	5.0	8.8
226	175	Ellis & Everard	218	...	...	4.0	20.8
42p	19p	Euro Colour	35	...	0.8	2.3	17.2
348	259	Halstead (J)	348	...	...	5.7	16.3
241	150	Hickson	176	+ 1	...	3.2	...
£116	9850	Hoechst	£112½	-25	...	2.8	15.1
229	164	Holliday Chem	164	- 3	...	4.6	...
777	608	ICI	746	+ 6	...	3.8	19.3
201	576	Laporte	701	- 4	18.0	3.5	17.0
230	161	Leigh	193 †	...	...	5.1	...
97½	38	MTM	48	...	...	...	...
3050	1462½	Norsk Hydro	1875	-21½	...	1.5	26.7

BREWERIES (continued)

102	53	Alexon	66	...	...	5.7	...
87	62	Amber Day	63	+ 1	1.3	2.7	∞
373	252	Argos Plc	368	...	...	2.4	31.4
23	9½	Ashley Group	11	...	...	2.1	...
118	69	Ashley (Laura)	80	...	...	0.2	...
330	276	Aspity	300 †	- 1	0.1	0.2	...
154	94	Austin Reed	154 †	+ 3	...	2.0	19.9
195	129	Bentalls (H 'A'	168	...	...	4.7	16.2
121	70	Bentalls	120	...	1.9	2.3	...
278	132	Betterware	199	...	...	1.8	17.8
47	22	Blacks Leis	38 †	...	2.3	7.4	...
227	153	Body Shop	217	+ 2	...	1.0	28.0
19½	9½	Brown & Jackson	11	- ½	...	0.6	5.7
434	318	Brown (N)	426	- 1	...	2.2	34.8
89½	60½	Burton	81½	...	4.0	2.6	∞
195	126	Cantors	195	...	4.0	2.6	∞
360	295	Church	333	- 1	12.5	4.7	20.6
183	97	Clinton Cards	155	+ 1	4.3	3.6	18.5
280½	212	Coats Viyella	264	- 2	...	3.6	16.5
112	78	Colourvision A	83	...	3.6	3.6	14.9
181	154	Cory Cassette	157	...	...	3.3	14.6
935	394	Courts Furnish	880 †	+ 2	5.6	0.8	11.1
155	115	Crown Eyes A	140 †	...	...	6.7	9.6
130	99	Dairy Farm Intl	116	...	...	2.6	17.0
96½	51½	Dewhirst (J)	96½	- ½	0.8	1.1	30.3
203	189	Dixons Grp	226	- 8	...	2.6	...
21	8	ERA Gp	9½	...	...	...	...
530	400	Elys (Wimbldn)	530	...	...	16.0	48.9
186	71	Essex Furn	150	...	...	2.9	24.0
272	203	Etam	230	...	10.0	2.9	17.4
608	499	Fine Art Dev	550	...	7.0	1.6	21.1
70	26	Fired Earth Thm	47	- 2	13.0	3.0	17.6
652	498	Formlaster	628	...	...	...	...
180	24	French Conn A	118	+ 5	14.0	2.8	11.4
74	43	Great Sl	66	...	...	...	...
78	23	Goldsmiths Gp	76	...	0.3	0.5	...
600	334	GUS	595	...	...	2.4	18.3
40	23	Hampden Grps A	23	+ 2	...	...	...
277	30	Harestone	55	...	...	...	...
33	20	Helene Plc	32	+ 2	...	2.0	7.7
99	79	Heritage A	88	...	...	...	15.4
79	35	Honeysuckle A	66	...	...	...	...
161	63	Jacques Vert	152	...	...	4.3	...
731½	496	Kingfisher	725	+ 6	...	2.4	15.0
425	330	Leslie Wise Gp	375	...	...	4.0	9.8
685	495	Liberty	595	...	7.3	1.7	63.0
335	241	Lloyds Chem	335	+ 8	...	2.4	18.3
193	120	MFI	153	+ 6	...	3.9	11.2
457	311	Marks Spencer	439½	+ 5½	...	2.4	22.4
580	445	Menzies (John)	568	...	...	2.4	16.1
263	135	Moss Bros	233	...	...	3.0	27.4
212	139½	Next	204½	-3½	3.5	2.1	24.4
41	15	Oliver Gp	38	...	...	3.8	15.7
325	197	Ortholine Ind	324	...	...	3.8	13.7
63	25½	Penton	26	- 1½	0.8	3.1	6.4
313	185	QS Hldgs	220	...	5.1	2.3	15.7
69½	30½	Ritzno Grp A	66	- 1	...	...	...
169	95	Rosebys	171	+ 1	...	3.5	20.5
181	135	Sherwood Gp	147	...	...	2.2	13.2
131½	93	Sears	127	...	...	3.4	...
41½	11	Signet Group	17½	...	...	...	...
400	309	Smith WH 'A'	387	...	...	3.5	16.6
16	4½	Specialchem	16	+ 1	...	...	...
233	176	Storehouse	220	+ 3	...	2.7	22.3
191	147	T & S Stores	147	...	...	3.0	11.0
182	71	Tie Rack	153	...	1.0	0.8	25.0
299	160	Time Products	234	+ 2	7.7	4.1	20.2
138	63	Usher (Frankie	108	...	...	2.8	17.5
365	308	Vendome	345	+ 9	...	2.1	17.0
45	27	Vivat	36	...	1.0	3.5	11.1
48	34	Wenstrom A	44	...	...	...	...
120	76	Wigfall	108	+ 2	...	0.2	49.1
78	45	Wkfld of Leather A	54	...	...	...	...
192½	142	Wyevale	173	+ 3	...	3.0	23.2
4	2½	Xtra-vision A	2½	...	...	...	...

DRAPERY, STORES

102	53	Alexon	66	...	...	5.7	...
87	62	Amber Day	63	+ 1	1.3	2.7	∞
373	252	Argos Plc	368	...	...	2.4	31.4
23	9½	Ashley Group	11	...	...	2.1	...
118	69	Ashley (Laura)	80	...	...	0.2	...
330	276	Aspity	300 †	- 1	0.1	0.2	...
154	94	Austin Reed	154 †	+ 3	...	2.0	19.9
195	129	Bentalls (H 'A'	168	...	...	4.7	16.2
121	70	Bentalls	120	...	1.9	2.3	...
278	132	Betterware	199	...	...	1.8	17.8
47	22	Blacks Leis	38 †	...	2.3	7.4	...
227	153	Body Shop	217	+ 2	...	1.0	28.0
19½	9½	Brown & Jackson	11	- ½	...	0.6	5.7
434	318	Brown (N)	426	- 1	...	2.2	34.8
89½	60½	Burton	81½	...	4.0	2.6	∞
195	126	Cantors	195	...	4.0	2.6	∞
360	295	Church	333	- 1	12.5	4.7	20.6
183	97	Clinton Cards	155	+ 1	4.3	3.6	18.5
280½	212	Coats Viyella	264	- 2	...	3.6	16.5
112	78	Colourvision A	83	...	3.6	3.6	14.9
181	154	Cory Cassette	157	...	...	3.3	14.6
935	394	Courts Furnish	880 †	+ 2	5.6	0.8	11.1
155	115	Crown Eyes A	140 †	...	...	6.7	9.6
130	99	Dairy Farm Intl	116	...	...	2.6	17.0
96½	51½	Dewhirst (J)	96½	- ½	0.8	1.1	30.3
203	189	Dixons Grp	226	- 8	...	2.6	...
21	8	ERA Gp	9½	...	...	...	...
530	400	Elys (Wimbldn)	530	...	...	16.0	48.9
186	71	Essex Furn	150	...	...	2.9	24.0
272	203	Etam	230	...	10.0	2.9	17.4
608	499	Fine Art Dev	550	...	7.0	1.6	21.1
70	26	Fired Earth Thm	47	- 2	13.0	3.0	17.6
652	498	Formlaster	628	...	...	...	...
180	24	French Conn A	118	+ 5	14.0	2.8	11.4
74	43	Great Sl	66	...	...	...	...
78	23	Goldsmiths Gp	76	...	0.3	0.5	...
600	334	GUS	595	...	...	2.4	18.3
40	23	Hampden Grps A	23	+ 2	...	...	...
33	20	Helene Plc	32	+ 2	...	2.0	7.7
99	79	Heritage A	88	...	...	...	15.4
79	35	Honeysuckle A	66	...	...	...	...
161	63	Jacques Vert	152	...	...	4.3	...
731½	496	Kingfisher	725	+ 6	...	2.4	15.0
425	330	Leslie Wise Gp	375	...	...	4.0	9.8
685	495	Liberty	595	...	7.3	1.7	63.0
335	241	Lloyds Chem	335	+ 8	...	2.4	18.3
193	120	MFI	153	+ 6	...	3.9	11.2
457	311	Marks Spencer	439½	+ 5½	...	2.4	22.4
580	445	Menzies (John)	568	...	...	2.4	16.1
263	135	Moss Bros	233	...	...	3.0	27.4
212	139½	Next	204½	-3½	3.5	2.1	24.4
41	15	Oliver Gp	38	...	...	3.8	15.7
325	197	Ortholine Ind	324	...	...	3.8	13.7
63	25½	Penton	26	- ½	0.8	3.1	6.4
313	185	QS Hldgs	220	...	5.1	2.3	15.7
69½	30½	Ritzno Grp A	66	- 1			

ACCOUNTANCY

Global task for tax planners

BY JOHN FAIRLEY



John Fairley says there is concern over abuse of tax treaties by those not entitled to protection

FOR tax authorities, the challenge in a recession is to preserve the domestic tax take: but the globalisation of business is also forcing them to co-operate ever more closely together. International tax planners find themselves fighting a war on two fronts.

From the tax authorities' viewpoint, the most useful legislation will widen the domestic tax base and render the use of tax havens less effective. CFC (controlled foreign company) legislation is designed for this purpose. Its growing acceptance and importance are indicated by the introduction or extension of CFC legislation in France, Germany, Norway and the United Kingdom in the past two years alone.

Transfer pricing rules are another growth area, the US being notably severe. There is a danger of multiple taxation arising from the spread of specific country legislation, each with different methods of adjustment. Only occasionally (e.g. the new Spain/Australia tax treaty) do tax authorities recognise the need to co-ordinate transfer pricing adjustments.

Two strands of thought are apparent in UK legislation. The first is the desire to prevent schemes that have a tax effect in more than one country. The classic example was the dual resident company, a favourite planning device of the mid-eighties that allowed the same interest payment to be tax-deductible in both the UK and US. Both tax authorities legislated against it and the interest ceased to be deductible anywhere.

The second is the "sledgehammer to crack a nut" principle, best exemplified by the moves to stop "principal first" loans taken in the 1993 Finance Act. The scheme was effectively a deferral of UK tax, but the new legislation creates a tax liability on virtually all intercompany loans between a UK parent and foreign subsidiaries where the interest is outstanding for more than 12 months.

Both strands can be seen at work in the Budget, in which a measure to stop controlled foreign companies from benefiting from local tax rules if these were more generous than the UK's was brought in — with retrospective effect.

Concern over abuse of tax treaties by those not entitled to their protection has increased. The UK has concentrated on restricting the benefit of treaty protection where income flows are concerned. The US has taken a much tougher line in the revised US/Netherlands treaty, effectively forcing the Dutch to strengthen their entire anti-avoidance legislation. Equally alarming is the tendency in US legislation towards overriding the obligations of international tax treaties. This is now also in prospect in Germany.

Recent years have seen a growth in the exchange of information and co-operation. The Pacific Association of Tax Administrators — Canada, the US, Japan and Australia — meet twice a year to discuss common problems, potential solutions and international tax avoidance. One PATA member has recently provided Australia with a list of Hong Kong "paper companies". In 1992 the "group of four" (France, Germany, the UK and the US) proposed a new "code of good practice" that included spontaneous disclosure of avoidance schemes.

There is a model OECD agreement on how to undertake bilateral or multilateral simultaneous transfer pricing examinations and the US and Australia already have a working arrangement. Multinationals may feel pressured into doing advance deals with tax authorities over pricing policies.

Throughout the eighties, international tax planners were conceptually ahead of the tax authorities. Now the tax authorities are catching up. The challenge for tax planners in the nineties is to create new structures to reflect the changing business and regulatory environment.

John Fairley is partner in charge of the International Tax Group at Ernst & Young

Boxing clever for better understanding

"WHY is it", said my host the other day at lunch in the English ICA's excellent basement restaurant, "that when pundits appear on television to talk about how the corporate world is doing, none of them are ever accountants?" What he really meant, of course, was: why do people from this institute never get asked on the box? The short answer is that they would waffle, be defensive and not come up with the required soundbites. So they don't get asked.

The wider point he was making was that spokespeople from all manner of pressure groups and other bodies are for ever popping up talking about what is happening in a wider financial context. Accountants are very rarely amongst their number, however.

It can't still be the image that is to blame. The days of Bruce Marshall's codfaced bank auditors and even the days of Monty Python's emotionally retarded and timid accountants have long passed.

The English ICA, and some of the other accounting bodies, have occasionally wrestled with the idea of appointing a long-term director-general figure who might carve out a career providing a higher public profile for the profession. Although the accounting bodies' chief executives and presidents are all put through the media training drill, it is rare for any of them to put much of it into practice.



ROBERT BRUCE

Michael Chamberlain, the current English ICA president, has proved in formal television interviews that he is an assured TV performer. But his appearances have been limited to the profession's in-house TV training services.

We have not seen any point where a senior institute person has appeared on the nation's screens and carefully explained the particular point at issue. The accounting bodies would argue that, firstly, they are never asked and that, secondly, on the few occasions when they have agreed to an interview, the soundbites that survived the lengthy process appeared, extraordinarily, to have been chosen by the editor of the television programme rather than by a committee at the English ICA. Furious complaints that the full 45-minute interview was not used in its entirety ensue and they then wonder why they are never asked back.

Part of this is simply building relationships and understanding between TV reporters, producers and the putative pundits. The English ICA is bad at that sort of thing. But it does seem extraordinary that representatives of such a large and crucial part of the financial and business sector are rarely seen or heard.

At present there are the two training systems: Accountancy Television, funded in part by the profession, and the Accountants' Channel, which comes from the Television Education Network. But both are video-based. Neither reaches a wider audience, or is intended to. They provide the profession with its own internal discussion and training topics.

Occasionally there have been forays into the field by the BBC's *Money Programme* and other one-off programmes from Channel 4, for example. But these have tended to be specials devoted to explaining to the public what the accountancy profession has been up to during an era of corporate collapses and scandals. They have been good programmes but have sometimes mingled the explanation and education strands uneasily.

What is required boils down to two areas: good pundits and good financial reporting explanations. The profession has good pundits, experts and experienced TV performers. Take John Howell for example. He is Ernst & Young's eastern Europe expert. He is an exuberant character, famous for waking up fellow Oxfordshire villagers with an early morning blast of *The Songs That Lenin Loved* over the hi-fi. He knows his stuff. Across Europe on satellite and local services he has his own regular weekly ten-minute slot. He is a regular on CNN. But there is no equivalent slot on UK television for someone like him.

Equally it does seem strange that no one has yet dreamt up a regular programme that would explain financial reporting issues to the general non-business public.

Financial reporting jargon sounds complex, but only because accountants prefer it that way. It is perfectly easy to explain concepts to financially illiterate people. Analyst Terry Smith, with his book *Accounting For Growth*, showed it was even possible to explain accounting concepts to people in the City.

People argue that the UK lags the rest of Europe because it lacks a business culture. Explaining how financial reporting affects everyday life would be a start.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

More gravitas at Grant

NOBODY will be able to accuse Grant Thornton of lacking intellectual gravity, after a new appointment to its business advisory team. The firm has signed up Professor Sue Birley, a distinguished academic with extensive experience of advising small businesses, to act as a consultant. She will work with Andrew Godfrey, the firm's head of growth and development services, in building up contacts with owner-managed businesses. Professor Birley holds senior posts at the University of London.

Presents of mind

PART-QUALIFIED accountants shatter the image of the "boring" number-cruncher once and for all, if a survey by *PASS* magazine is to be taken seriously. Asked to name their most desired Christmas present, many opted for expensive cars, long holidays on tropical islands and pots of money. Stretching the imagination further, one expressed a wish for Kim Basinger in a Santa Claus outfit to pop out of his Christmas cake on the day. Another wanted a night out with Denzel Washington. On a more sombre note, one hopeful told *PASS* that all he desired was for his wife to learn how to cook a decent Christmas dinner. And the overall booby prize goes to the student who listed his dream present as ... a settee.

Legal worries

BUSINESS prospects have improved in the wake of the Budget, according to a survey by the London Society of Chartered Accountants, but the burden of legislation continues to worry many business people. A straw poll of visitors to the Business in Britain exhibition at London's Barbican Centre found that 57 per cent thought prospects for business in general were now better. In spite of the optimism, only 42 per cent thought that their own businesses would benefit.

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ROCK page 32
Tears for Fears — and the touts — discover the downside of stardom at Wembley Arena

ARTS

THEATRE page 33
Alan Ayckbourn's 42nd play, Wildest Dreams, shows the playwright is still in excellent form



CINEMA: **Geoff Brown** searches for the humour in *Robin Hood: Men in Tights*; plus Gatt and the film industry

To the woods? No thank you

When a circumcision routine gets a muted response from his fellow actors in **Robin Hood: Men in Tights**, Mel Brooks's wandering Rabbi, purveyor of sacramental wine, mutters out loud: "I gotta work with a much younger crowd!"

Age, indeed, is a problem. Time has moved on since the 1960s and early 1970s, when the world laughed at Brooks's broad buffoonery, and most current movie audiences were not even born. Screen comedy now comes in two shapes: fast, juvenile anarchy like *Wayne's World* or the *Naked Gun* spoofs; or sophisticated, literate, Woody Allen-ish comedies for the oldsters (those over 25). Nowhere is there much room for what *Robin Hood: Men in Tights* offers: endless flat jokes about private parts, laborious displays of bad taste, and limp parodies of other movies, from Kevin Costner's *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves* to several of Brooks's own.

In fact, Brooks is already working with a much younger crowd. Old faithfuls like Dom DeLuise get tucked away in cameos (he does a feeble Brando imitation), while the faces upfront are reasonably fresh. Cary Elwes makes a pleasantly breezy Robin Hood, cut to Errol Flynn's cloth. Roger Rees has fun with the evil, incompetent Sheriff of Rottingham. Stand-up comic Richard Lewis quivers with neuroses as the usurper Prince John; and, as the exchange student Achoo (son of the Moorish potentate Asneeze), Dave Chappelle, all of 19, brings a touch of "Outlaws 'N the Hood".

Yet the film's bones still creak. Aware of their audiences' itchy feet, most comedy directors now cut abruptly from one scene to the next; Brooks still hangs about for punchlines that are rarely worth the wait. Instead of darting between his gags, he mounts one on a pedestal and hammers it to pieces. Take the blind character of Blinkin, first spotted fondling a Braille edition of *Playboy* on the Loxley Hall loo. "I can see!" he screams, much later on. He bangs into a tree. "No, I was wrong." Only an idiot would laugh at this.

The central flaw, though, is the humour's sheer redundancy. Like most current action blockbusters, *Prince of Thieves* adopted a jaunty attitude, and was cheerfully anachronistic in word, accent and hairstyle. But Brooks never realises he is ponderously parodying something that was half spoof already. He also never grasps that time has run out on chorus lines of husky men, shaking a leg.

"Don't give in to nostalgia!" a dubbed Philippe Noiret tells the lovelorn adolescent hero in **Cinema Paradiso**, that Oscar-winning salute to cinema's power over the citizens of a small Sicilian town. But this is advice that no one takes; certainly not the director, Giuseppe Tornatore, who looks on Italy's postwar history with dewy eyes and sprinkles sugar over every scene possible.

Audiences have been equally indulgent towards this enjoyable, warm-hearted, shallow story of the boy projectionist Salvatore (nicknamed Toto) and his crusty mentor Alfredo. *Guardian* readers voted *Cinema Paradiso* the best film made since 1980. For them, then, here is the perfect Christmas present: *Cinema Paradiso: The Special Edition*, 44 minutes longer than the version released in 1989.

We now have before us Tornatore's original, preferred cut, which was never given a commercial release. Bowing to his producer's wishes, Tornatore first removed some 12 minutes. Then, when the film was entered in competition at Cannes, 32 further minutes bit the dust, entirely removing Brigitte Fossey, who played Elena, Toto's dream girl, as a middle-aged woman.

It is clear that the veteran producer, Franco Cristaldi, had sounder instincts than his ambitious young director, for the new footage tends to magnify faults, not virtues. True, these extra scenes substantially expand on Toto's failed romance with the local banker's daughter; the trouble is, this only prolongs the story's least interesting part.

Now more than ever, the film depends for its interest and charm on whoever is playing Toto; and, as Toto ages, so the film starts to stiffen. His first impersonator is a chubby-cheeked, wide-eyed, pointy-eared bundle called Salvatore Cascio: a terrible little ham, maybe, yet his face-pulling larks in the Paradise Cinema stick in the mind. Once Noiret becomes burnt in the cinema fire and the inflexible Mario Leonardi takes over Toto's role, we become lumbered with adolescent angst: who cares if this dullard gets the girl or not?

Then, roughly at the two-hour mark, Jacques Perrin grasps the torch as the older Salvatore, now a famous filmmaker with tufts of grey hair, who returns to Sicily for Alfredo's funeral. Finally, after two hours and 20 minutes, Fossey arrives. The two sit in a car in the dark, musing over the past in scenes which may round out the story but only further dispel the film's magic. For all but the most diehard fans, the shorter, not so special edition of *Cinema Paradiso* should suffice.

If Mel Brooks is not what he was, neither is Robert Townsend. Six years ago, the young actor and stand-up comic made his directorial debut with *Hollywood Shuffle*, a joyous, low-budget ragbag of sketches poking pointed fun at the movie capital's treatment of blacks. Then he placed projects with mainstream Hollywood, and the fire started to die.

First came *The Five Heartbeats*, bankrolled by 20th Century Fox, a cheerful but predictable biography of an imaginary rhythm 'n' blues group; some scenes were sappy enough to be pilloried in his earlier film. Now we get **The Meteor Man** from MGM, a fantasy comedy low on jokes, but top-heavy with familiar TV stars, special effects and a tub-thumped social message.

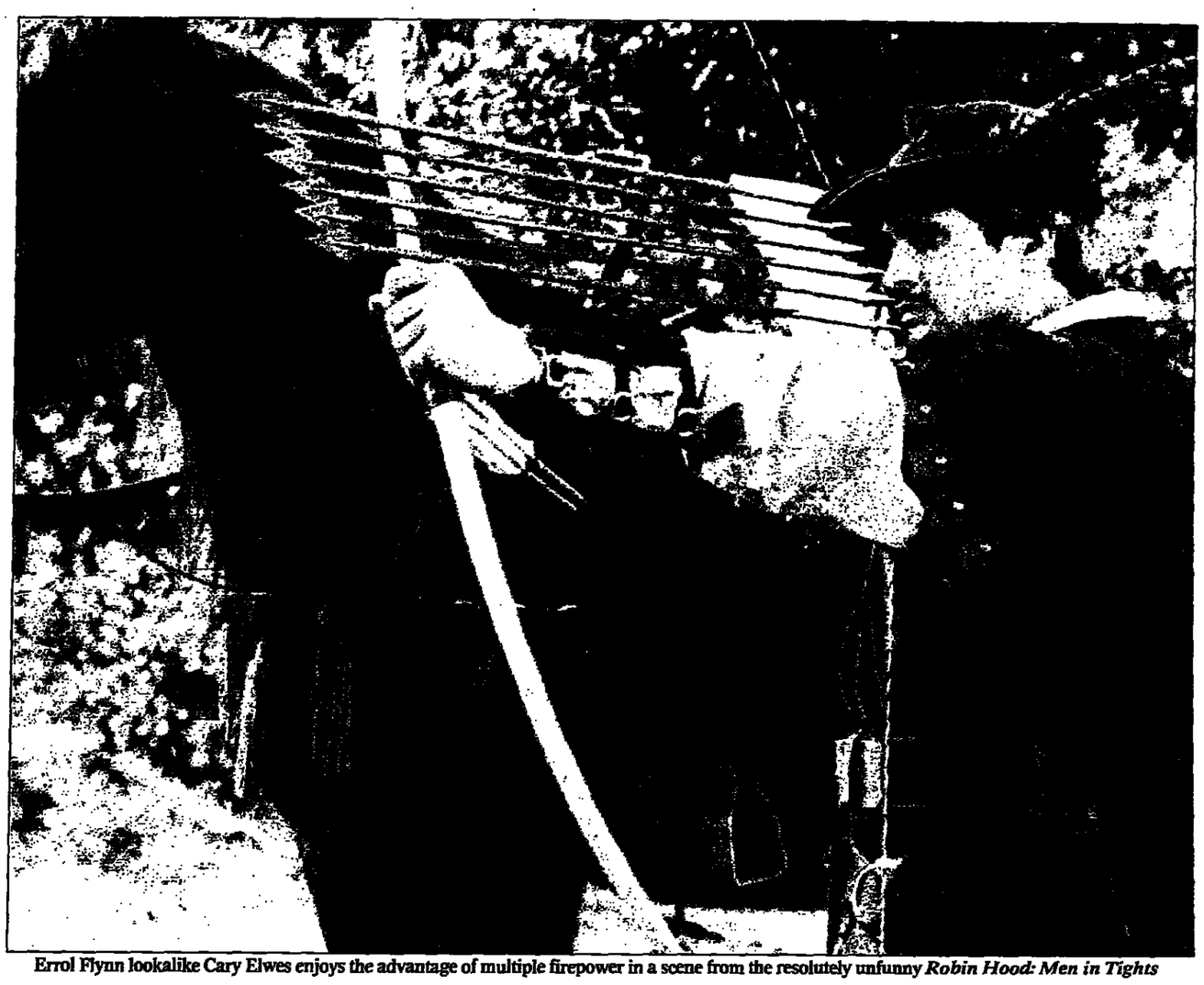
Townsend plays a substitute teacher in Washington DC, who timidly advocates nonviolence and just saying no to drugs. Caught in an emerald meteor shower, he develops bizarre superhuman powers. By touching a book he can absorb its contents for 30 seconds; he can communicate with dogs. Bullets never penetrate, and when he is hurled from a building into the road he causes an earthquake measuring 3.5 on the Richter scale. So Meteor Man is born, with a superhero costume to match, and a mission to clean up the community.

Alas, Townsend the well-meaning social reformer gets the better of Townsend the entertainer. "The police aren't perfect," Meteor Man tells the residents, plagued by the peroxide blonds of the local gang, "but how can you complain when you do nothing?" Famous names appear in support: James Earl Jones (a do-nothing neighbour) sports an undignified wedge-cut wig, while Bill Cosby totters about, destitute. But good intentions have never guaranteed good cinema, and *The Meteor Man* proves too bland and dishevelled to make much contact with the young black audience it needs.

Robin Hood: Men in Tights
Odeon West End, PG, 104 mins
Unfunny spoof from Mel Brooks

Cinema Paradiso: Special Edition
Metro, PG, 167 mins
Longer and inferior version of Tornatore's Oscar-winner

The Meteor Man
Electric Portobello Road, PG, 100 mins
Bland, well-meaning black fantasy



Errol Flynn lookalike Cary Elwes enjoys the advantage of multiple firepower in a scene from the resolutely unfunny *Robin Hood: Men in Tights*

The Gatt squabble over film and TV could be hiding an artistic impasse

A case of Hollywood – or bust?

Who would have predicted that the last sticking point and the fiercest-fought battle in the Gatt negotiations would be film and television? The final confrontation was between the Americans, who objected to any form of protectionism for national film and television industries: and the French, who resented the "industrial" tag and demanded a "cultural exception" that would exclude the audio-visual media from Gatt regulations altogether.

The EC's Sir Leon Brittan and Mickey Kantor, America's trade representative, "agreed to disagree" on the audio-visual element after talks failed to resolve their dispute over access to European markets for American films and television programmes.

To Europeans the position of the Americans, who already command something like 85 per cent of the world's film market, seems cynical; but, the American show-business journal *Variety* said this week, "Europeans don't realise you can drive an American mad by even hinting at blocking the free flow of goods and services."

The effect of Gatt as originally framed would be to prohibit any future national systems of quota or subsidy designed to protect the indigenous product against foreign importations, and to freeze any similar arrangements already in place.

France's concern to defend its complex but efficient system of levies on imports and box office, in order to maintain a system of national support for the cinema amounting to some $150 million a year, is understandable, since it seems to work so effectively. While American films last year earned a staggering 93 per cent of the British box office takings. France kept the figure down to 58 per cent. The Gatt Cassandras predict that without the measures of protection and subsidy that to some degree sustain most European cinemas except the British, there would be no bulwark against an American takeover of our screens.

The French argue that the audio-visual media express and define national cultural identities. Wim Wenders, the German director and president of the European Film Academy, perceives a more material significance, which has certainly never escaped American industry: "People increasingly believe in what they see and they buy what they believe in. If we ever give up the European film industry, then all the other European industries will suffer in the future. People use, drive, wear, eat and buy what they see in the movies. We need to regard our films in the same way as we do our literature. Books would never be included in international trade industry deals."

Wenders's remarks appear in a new report on the state of European cinema, compiled by Angus Finney for the European Film Academy and *Screen International*, and canvassing a wide cross-section of European film opinion. What is most evident is a new, more aggressive and realistic spirit among European filmmakers, who are starting to ask if we can blame all our troubles on Hollywood — or even the threat of Gatt — or if there is not something seriously wrong with the European film itself.

Audiences will go to see a European film — *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *The Crying Game*, *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* — if it appeals to them. The trouble is that very few European pictures have that appeal (90 per cent of European films are never seen outside their country of origin; 60 per cent do not reach the cinemas at all). Too often films seem to be made to please the auteur rather than the audience. The report points to the lack of creative producers — the British Jeremy Thomas and David Puttnam are among the exceptions — and the urgent need to develop good writers.

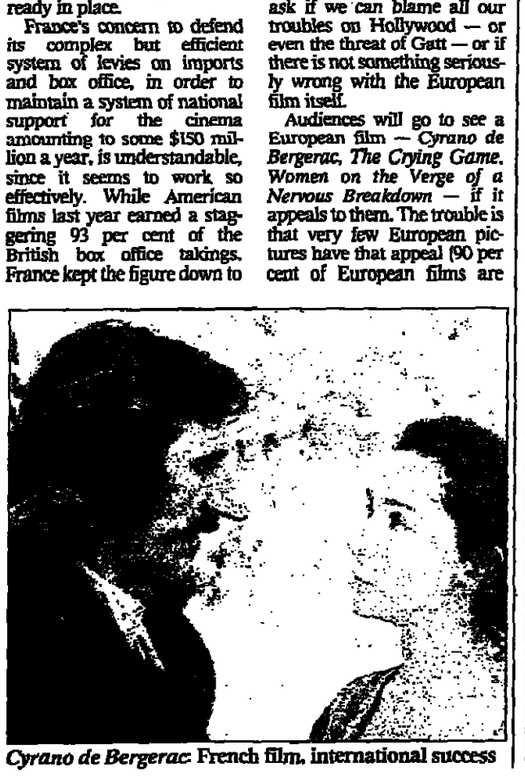
Another European deficiency is stars, whose value as a kind of brand-name assurance has always been a mainstay of the Hollywood economy. "As filmmakers", says the Polish director Krzysztof Zanussi, "we should blame ourselves. We don't create those fascinating personalities on screen that will grab the interest of the large audience." When Europe does create its own stars — Sean Connery, Gary Oldman, Daniel Day-Lewis, Jeremy Irons — they are all too often snatched by Hollywood.

Another European failure is marketing. The European media as a whole are totally in thrall to the publicity machines of Hollywood. The report points to the need to develop and rationalise financing structures, to facilitate co-production and to aim for larger-budgeted films that have greater chance of international success.

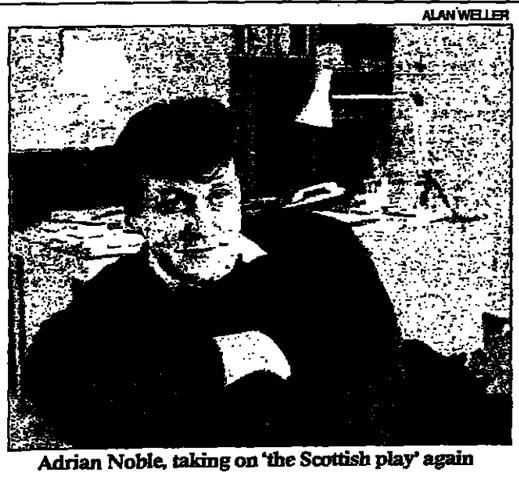
As to the kind of national support that figured in the Gatt talks, few people favour quota systems and nobody likes subsidies, which tend to remove the incentive to consider the market. Europe's vital need, says the report, is "constructive economics helping to build an industry".

Bernardo Bertolucci, director of the forthcoming European block-buster *Little Buddha*, points out that Hollywood itself would stand to lose by the collapse of the European cinema: "Hollywood has absorbed a lot of European talent. If European creative talent withers away from lack of finance, Hollywood will ultimately lack the oxygen it needs."

DAVID ROBINSON



Cyrano de Bergerac: French film, international success



ALAN WELLER

Adrian Noble, taking on 'the Scottish play' again

A Noble view of Macbeth

'We are the only classical ensemble left,' says the RSC's artistic director

Adrian Noble is on a roll. *Macbeth*, opening at the Barbican Theatre tonight, is the third Shakespearean peak he has tackled inside a year, the other two being *Hamlet* and *King Lear*. Add that he has directed three more major plays from the canon — both *Henry IVs* and *The Winter's Tale* — as well as Sophocles's Oedipus trilogy and Stoppard's *Travesties* in the three years that he has been running the largest, most complex theatre company in Britain. It is clear that the RSC has found an artistic director who leads it with energy from the front line.

His arrival in 1991 pulled the company out of the trough in which it was floundering (with the Barbican Theatre closed to cut losses). The boost to its morale has been obvious. Noble's productions have won plaudits from critics at home and abroad. And the public response has brought record earnings to the RSC's box offices despite the recession, pulling in a small profit for the past two years to help reduce the £3 million deficit which he inherited. All the company's current shows are playing to audiences of over 80 per cent.

One shadow lies across a bright future. Like all others, the company expects a cut in its public subsidy next year at a time when its major sponsor, Royal Insurance, has said farewell and its royalties from *Les Misérables* (once £2 million a year) are in decline. This will probably mean fewer productions in future. "We have no elbow room, no margin for any loss at all. We simply can't afford to make a mistake," says Noble.

The RSC artistic director, who is a boyish 43, admits he is enjoying himself hugely and feels "just fine" in a job which visibly wore down predecessors like Sir Peter Hall and Trevor Nunn. "I feel rather spoilt. This year alone I've worked with so many exciting actors and these days I do plays because there are artists I want to work with. The motto I have in my head is that we should offer our audiences mighty experiences. To do that you need the big guns. You can't finally explore a great role without a great actor."

A feature of his directorship has been bringing back leading actors whose names were made in the great ensembles of the Sixties. One, Robert Stephens, had become a stranger to the stage. Others like Alec McCowen, Richard Johnson and now Derek Jacobi had been absent from the company for years. Noble first saw them as a schoolboy attending Chichester Festival Theatre which Laurence Olivier then used as the National Theatre Company's try-out stage.

"It was a corps of talented actors who stayed together led by Olivier, who set out to create the best acting company in the world. A similar thing was happening at Stratford under Peter Hall. That was the model for what I am trying to do now. I am pursuing a policy of creating a classical ensemble. Now the RSC is the only one left. Perhaps it's quite good that the National doesn't pursue that anymore. It gives us a particular role.

"What this company needed was for its principles to be restated loud and clear, the principles of classicism, ensemble, the primacy of language and verse-speaking. We are not going to be all things to all men. We are not primarily a new play house, although a third of our work is new plays. We are not a manufactory of musicals. We're the natural home of artists who want to do the classics."

Noble and Derek Jacobi have had an appointment to work together for years and both finally felt drawn to *Macbeth*. "I had unfinished business with the play. I directed it before at Stratford but this time will be very different.

"I think he's a natural Macbeth but not a natural psychopath. The idea of the man being a psychopath has overlain our perception of the part. If you take the psychopath out of it, the play is a metaphysical debate about what is and what is not. His escalating hallucinations are a metaphor in themselves. It takes in scenes explored in *Lear* and *Hamlet* about madness, the fear of losing control. It's also the best exposition of tyranny and its methods ever written."

PETER LEWIS

● *Macbeth opens tonight at the Barbican (071-638 8891)*



TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

ACTION AID CHRISTMAS CRACKER: A delightful celebration of witty words and merry music from the English Concert Singers under Roy Wales, plus solos from ENO soprano Susan Bullock and baritone Richard Jackson. Celebrity contributions from Janet Suzman and Dinsdale Landen. **St Georges Church,** Hanover Square (071-291 4101). Tonight, doors open at 7 for 7.30pm.

AN EVENING WITH GARY LINEKER: The West End hit comedy, now on tour, moves to the Studios for the Christmas season. A very amusing tribute to soccer fans and football widows written by Arthur Smith and Chris England. **Riverside Studios,** Crisp Road, London W6 (081-748 3354). Tonight-Jan 15, 7.30pm.

MACBETH: Opening night for Derek Jacobi and Cheryl Campbell as the hell-hound and his dam in Adrian Noble's new production. See feature, page 31. **Barbican,** Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 8891). Tonight, 7pm.

SWEENEY TODD: The greatly-looked-forward-to return of Declan Donnellan's superb staging of Sondheim's subtle, savage musical. With Alun Armstrong, Julia McKenzie. **National** (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Tonight-next Monday, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2pm.

ELSEWHERE

BRIGHTON: A fascinating exhibition devoted entirely to **George Walton,** a designer and architect of great renown and influence on the Scottish Art Nouveau movement. Walton's versatility and inventiveness in late 19th and early 20th-century design brought him greater critical and commercial success than his more famous colleague Mackintosh; this eclectic gathering of his achievements aims to return him to his deserved place in the limelight. **Museum and Art Gallery,** Church Street (0273 603005). Until Jan 9. Open daily (not Wed) 10am-5pm; Sun 2-5pm.

EDINBURGH: A golden anniversary celebration for the fabulously talented harpist **Marisa Robles:** Her programme includes works by Bach, Handel, Mozart, Nadermann, Chopin, Albeniz, Salzedo and her own composition, *The World of Narnia.* **Queen's Hall,** Clerk Street (031-668 2019). Tonight, 7.45pm.

MANCHESTER: Kent Nagano and the CBSO will be sprinkling liberal doses of stardust in the ears of their audience this evening with a rare concert performance of the complete score of Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker.* Plus a little help from local schoolchildren. **Free Trade Hall,** Peter Street (061-834 1712). Tonight, 7.30pm.

SCARBOROUGH. Last chance to see this pre-Christmas Ayckbourn for both the young and the young at heart. Mr **A's Amazing Maze Plays** began here in 1988 and has since triumphed at the National. **Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round** (0723 370541). Today and tomorrow, 10am and 1.30pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican. The London Group (071-638 4141) . . . **British Museum:** Deities and Devotions: Hindu art; Kawanabe Kyosai (071-636 1555) . . . **Festival Hall:** Bruce Chawin's Photographs (071-928 3002) . . . **National Portrait Gallery.** The Portrait Now; Thomas Eakins (071-306 0055) . . . **National Gallery:** Ken Kiff (071-839 3321) . . . **Royal Academy of Arts.** Drawings from the J. Paul Getty Museum (071-439 7438) . . . **Serpentine.** Richard Wentworth (071-402 6075) . . . **Tate:** Ben Nicholson; Turner's Vignettes (071-887 8008) . . . **V&A:** Gates of Mystery: Russian Icons; 150 Years of the Christmas Card (071-938 8500).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
□ **Seats at all prices**

□ **THE BELLS OF NOTRE DAME.** Vince Foxall retells the Quasimodo story. Victor Hugo beware. **Warehouse,** Dingwall Road, East Croydon (081-680 4060). Tue-Sat 8pm; mats Sat (from Dec 26) 5pm.

□ **THE BFG:** Roald Dahl's Big Friendly Giant makes his now seasonally festive call on London. **Albery,** St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-867 1115). Mon 7pm; Tue-Fri, 2pm and 7pm; Sat 11am, 2.30pm, 7pm.

◪ **CAROUSEL:** Tuneful Rodgers and Hammerstein has the familiar mixture of the perceptive and the maudlin. The sets are clever. **Shaftesbury,** Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. 165mins.

□ **THE CLEARING:** A co-production with the National Theatre Studio, set in Co Kildare in the years after Cromwell. Author Helen Edmundson adapted the excellent *Anna Karenina* for Shared Experience. Extended to Jan 15. **Bush,** Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (081-743 3388). Mon-Sat, 8pm.

□ **THE GOOD-NATUR'D MAN:** This Christmas production means that both Goldsmith comedies are playing in the metropolis. This is the earlier and the plot creates a right tangle. **Orange Tree,** Clarence Street, Richmond (081-940 3633). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Sat 4pm.

□ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS:** Stephen Daldry's marvellously re-imagined version of Priestley's social thriller. **Aldwych,** Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 6404). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 5pm and 8.15pm; mat Wed, 2.30pm.

□ **JAMAIS VU:** Ken Campbell, in typical form with his brilliant blend of humour and philosophical acumen, in the West End for the first time. **Vaudeville Theatre,** The Strand, WC2 (071-836 9987). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat, 2.30pm. Until Dec 23.

□ **LOOKING THROUGH A GLASS ONION:** John Waters stars in his own musical tribute to John Lennon, and comes remarkably close to conveying his mysterious, ñ chacha, charm. **Criterion,** Piccadilly Circus, W1 (071-839 4488). Mon-Thurs, 8pm; Fri, Sat, 6pm and 8pm.

◪ **ME AND MAMIE O'ROURKE** Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders together again in a new offbeat comedy by the author of the film *Beaches.* **Strand,** Aldwych, WC2 (071-930 8800). Mon-Thurs 8pm; Fri, Sat 6pm and 8.45pm.

■ **MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN:** Anthony Clark directs Hanif Kureishi's rousing production of Brecht, with Ellie Haddington as the persistent capitalist. **National** (Cottesloe) South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Tonight-Mon, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm.

◪ **OLEANNA:** Power, politics and punishment at an American university. Great performances by David Suchet and Lia Williams in Mamet's play. **Duke of York's,** St. Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 4pm.

◪ **ONE MAN.** Electrifying performances by Steven Berkoff in three solo pieces: *Poe's Telltale Heart; Actor;* and his hilarious, chilling *Dog.* **Garrick,** Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm.

□ **PIAF:** Peter Hall directs Elaine Paige in Pam Gems' portrait of the great French Chanteuse. **Piccadilly,** Denman Street, W1 (071-867 1118). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed (without Paige) and Sat 3pm.

□ **RELATIVE VALUES:** Susan Hampshire, Sara Crowe and Alison Fiske head a strong cast in Coward's snobbish but clever comedy. Tim Luscombe directs. **Savoy,** Strand, WC2 (071-836 8888). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

◪ **SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER:** Donald Sinden, Miriam Margolyes and David Esser in Peter Hall's revival of the evergreen Goldsmith comedy. **Queens,** Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5041). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm.

□ **THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA:** The national tour of David Thacker's effervescent RSC production (with music by Gershwin and Cole Porter) comes to London for one month only. **Theatre Royal,** Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). From Dec 14: Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. Extra mats Dec 23 and 30 at 3pm. Till Jan 15.

LONG RUNNERS

□ ***Blood Brothers:*** Phoenix (071-867 1044) . . . □ **Buddy:** Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) . . . ◪ **Cats:** New London (071-405 0072) . . . ◪ **Crazy for You:** Prince Edward (071-734 8951) . . . ◪ **Don't Dress for Dinner:** Duchess (071-494 5070) . . . ◪ **Five Guys Named Moe.** Lyric (071-494 5045) . . . ■ **Grease:** Dominion (071-580 9845) . . . ◪ **Hot Stuff:** Cambridge (071-494 5040) . . . ■ **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat:** Palladium (071-494 5037) . . . ◪ **Les Misérables:** Palace (071-434 0909) . . . ◪ **Miss Saigon:** Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (071-494 5400) . . . □ **The Mousetrap.** St Martin's (071-836 1443) . . . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera:** Her Majesty's (071-494 5400) . . . ◪ **Starlight Express:** Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) . . . ■ **Sunset Boulevard:** Adelphi Theatre (071-344 0055) . . . □ **Travels With My Aunt:** Whitehall (071-867 1119) . . . □ **The Woman in Black:** Fortune (071-836 2238).

Ticket information supplied by Society of West End Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

ADDAMS FAMILY VALUES (PG): A new baby causes chaos in America's most macabre household. Overblown sequel, with good stretches. With Raul Julia and Anjelica Huston, director, Barry Sonnenfeld. **Empire** (071-437 9999) **MGMs: Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (071-434 0031) **Screen/Green** (071-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (071-792 3332).

AMERICAN HEART (15). Father and son hit the Seattle streets. Well-meaning social drama from director Martin Bell, with Jeff Bridges and Edward Furlong. **Odeon Haymarket** (0426 915353).

THE SECRET ADVENTURES OF TOM THUMB (12): Dreary, unpleasant pixilated fantasy from the bolexbrothers animation studio in Bristol. Director, Dave Borthwick. **ICA** ◪ (071-930 3647).

CURRENT

◆ **ALADDIN** (U) Disney's brash Arabian cartoon does not match expectations, though Robin Williams' Genie is fun. Directors, John Musker, Ron Clements. **Barbican** ◪ (071-638 8891) **MGMs: Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914856) **Leicester Square** (0426-915683) **Marble Arch** (0426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (071-792 3332).

◆ **THE CONCIERGE** (PG): Trials and tribulations of an ambitious concierge in a New York hotel. Outdated vehicle for the ebullient Michael J. Fox, from director Barry Sonnenfeld. **MGM Panton Street** (071-930 0631).

◆ **DEMOLITION MAN** (15): Sylvester Stallone versus Wesley Snipes in 21st century L.A. Overblown action romp with satirical touches. Director, Marco Brambilla. **MGMs: Fulham Road** ◪ (071-370 2636) **Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Trocadero** ◪ (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (071-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (071-437 4343).

◆ **THE FUGITIVE** (12): 1960s television series roars back to life with Harrison Ford and Tommy Lee Jones, director, Andrew Davis. **MGMs: Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Trocadero** ◪ (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (071-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (071-437 4343).

◆ **GUILTY AS SIN** (15): D.A. Rebecca De Mornay falls under the spell of ladykiller Don Johnson. Foolish thriller, minus thrills. Director, Sidney Lumet. **Odeon Kensington** (0426-914 666).

THE HAWK (15): Is Helen Mirren's husband Lancashire's serial killer? Modest but powerful domestic thriller, from Peter Ransley's novel. David Hayman directs. **MGMs: Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **Notting Hill Coronet** ◪ (071-727 6705) **Warner** ◪ (071-437 4343).

◆ **THE MAN WITHOUT A FACE** (12): Scarred recluse tutors a young outcast (Nick Stahl). Queasy drama from director-star Mel Gibson. **Barbican** ◪ (071-638 8891) **MGMs: Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Trocadero** ◪ (071-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426-914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **Plaza** (071-497 9999) **Warner** ◪ (071-437 4343) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (071-792 3332).

◆ **THE PIANO** (15): Jane Campion's magnificent tale of repression and desire in mid-19th century New Zealand. With Holly Hunter, Sam Neill, Harvey Keitel. Score by Michael Nyman. **Gate** ◪ (071-727 4043) **Lumiere** (071-836 0691) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Plaza** (071-497 9999) **Renoir** (071-837 8402) **Screen/Baker** (071-935 2772) **Screen/Hill** ◪ (071-435 3366) **Warner** ◪ (071-437 4343) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (071-792 3332).

◆ **POSSE** (15): Outlaw blacks ride the prairie. Just an urban ghetto drama in Western clothes. Mario Van Peebles stars and directs. **MGM Oxford Street** (071-636 0310).

RUBY IN PARADISE (15): Passive young woman (the striking Ashley Judd) finds her niche in Florida. Intimate, aggravating drama from Victor Nunez. **MGMs: Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Screen/Baker** (071-935 2772).

◆ **SO I MARRIED AN AXE MURDERER** (12). Is a beat poet's latest flame a serial killer? Foolish but breezy vehicle for "Wayne's World" star Mike Myers. Thomas Schlamme directs. **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **West End** (0426-915574).

ROCK: **Louise Gray** joins two men and a dog at Roland Orzabal's latest bid to rule the world

The things we can do without

Tears for Fears
Wembley Arena

CAVERNS the size of Wembley are built to be filled. There is nothing so sad as the sight of the Arena half-filled — unless it is of a single, windswept tout outside the venue looking as if he has drawn the short straw.

A handful of years ago, Tears for Fears were a band for whom no short straws existed. Yes, Roland Orzabal and the now departed Curt Smith have always been somewhat lacking in the star-quality department. But that has not stopped fans from picking up 15 million albums' worth of epic middle-of-the-road rock songs.

Record company spin-doctors were working on reasons for Tuesday's poor turn-out, and the proximity of Christmas figured high among them. But even though the Smith-less Tears for Fears' latest album, *Elemental*, has sold creditably well, the fact that the arena's binocular-hire stall remained closed augered badly.

Orzabal took the opportunity to play his man-of-the-people routine. Under a swathe of hair, he appeared in colour-coordinated browns and a pair of shoes that seemed hewn from whole loaves of Hovis. There was a vague tremble of excitement when he removed his jacket to reveal a black waistcoat and a well-appointed pair of armpits. But nothing could disguise the fact that the muse of dance had failed to attend his birth thirty-something years ago.

Indeed, it was left to guest bassist Gail Ann Dorsey to pick up the glamour award. Shaven-headed and pin-striped, she gave her playing a sensuous, bumpy edge which was later recapitulated on "Size of Sorrow" and "Woman in Chains" with her rich and sweet alto vocals.

Since their birth 12 years ago, Tears for Fears have grown from a band turning out powerfully struck anthems into an outfit capable of embracing a greater complexity. The two opening numbers, "Elemental" and "Cold", were loaded with electronic effects generated by Jebin Bruni's keyboards. The sound had a CD-quality brightness about it — not surprising, perhaps, since Orzabal confided before "Raoul and the Kings of Spain" that this new song was being recorded live.

One can only hope that his incessant chatter remained off the record. "Greetings, young people of London and its denizens," he said, at least twice. Presumably he liked the sound of denizens: it is an undeniably nice word and one used all too infrequently on the rock circuit.

In contrast, the origins of Tears for Fears's signature sound were of a less rarefied variety. Careful listening to the *Sergeant Pepper*-era Beatles informs "Cold" and "Power"; Bruni used his keyboard controls to trigger off sweeping string arrangements while the mixing desks concentrated on giving Orzabal's lead vocals a sense of space that would otherwise be absent. The guitarist (and, with Orzabal, *Elemental*'s co-author) Alan Griffiths could be relied upon to coax a range of wails and grindings from his instrument. But the effect nevertheless remained a cold and lifeless affair.

The audience reserved its surges of enjoyment for the band's two biggest hits, "Everybody Wants To Rule The World" and "Shout". Although these are hideous anthems of unparalleled mediocrity, their common denominator lies in a beat as predictable as the bongs of Big Ben. The most telling moment came with an encore of a Radiohead song. "Everyone can identify with the sentiments of this one," Orzabal announced, before singing lyrics that spoke of a wish to be special.

JULIAN HERBERT



Roland Orzabal rocks out to a painfully undersubscribed Wembley Arena

Prize entertainment for sophisticated folk

Barbara Dickson
Café Royal

AN OCCASIONAL visitor to the Top 40 since 1976, when her calling card was "Answer Me", Barbara Dickson has never quite made sense as a mainstream pop singer. Her voice is simply too well constructed to sit comfortably with the necessary rhythmic banality, and she has creatively confused matters by her association with various musicals, from *John, Paul, George, Ringo . . . and Bert*, via *Evita* and *Blood Brothers*, to *Chess*.

On stage or record, she has enjoyed success with such songs from the shows as "I Know Him So Well", "Another Suitcase in Another Hall" and "Easy Terms". She included only the latter two in her opening night programme at the Piccadilly room where she is appearing until December 24.

Though, as she pointed out, the Green Room could hardly be further in ambience from the folk clubs of her early days, it does resemble them in size and audience numbers, and she began with an unaccompanied tilt at Ewan MacColl's "The First Time".

This set a folk, if not folksy tone — her elegant black outfit and increasingly relaxed sophistication being supper-club rather than singers' club — for an hour-plus show. The voice, as true as ever, has gained in strength from her stage work, and has a thrilling, Streisand-like quality in the upper register.

Her choice of contemporary songs, from Paul Simon's "Still Crazy After All These Years", via Randy Newman's "I Think It's Going to Rain Today" and James Taylor's "Millworker" to Leonard Cohen and Jennifer Warnes's "Song of Bernadette", was nothing if not challenging; while the standards included "I Cover the Waterfront", a beautifully judged "Lush Life" and a rather edgy "Falling In Love Again". The sensitive musical director and pianist was Ian Lynn, and the phenomenal Pete Zorn played guitar, saxophone, clarinet, penny-whistle and flute, switching instruments between songs or between choruses of the same song with apparent ease.

Willy Russell's "Easy Terms", which was, with her own performance, much the best thing about the first West End production of *Blood Brothers*, showed off her range to advantage; but perhaps the song which most nearly defines her voice is the plangent "Another Suitcase", from *Evita*.

With the film version finally under way, she should be a front-runner to repeat her record role before the cameras. Meanwhile, the chance to hear her sing a personal choice of favourite good songs should not be missed.

TONY PATRICK



Sumi Jo: showing twinkly form

RECITAL

Trills in pink frills

Sumi Jo
Wigmore Hall

THE fairy for the top of the Wigmore Hall's Christmas tree arrived in town on Tuesday. It was a dressed in a pale pink frock, sang in a twinkly, pale pink voice and was called Sumi Jo. As she turned her wrist, it seemed as if a little cloud of stardust would drift down from her open hand.

Covent Garden's Queen of Night arrived as Rossini's flowergirl and left On Wings of Song. In between, such songs as Debussy's "Apparition", with its white bouquets of scented stars, Strauss's "Ich schwebe", floating on angels' wings, and Meyerbeer's invocation to a shadow, ensured that she barely touched down. Perhaps it was just as well, for with Sumi Jo a trill passes like a flutter of an eyelash, and no consonant is ever allowed to ground the voice's flight through space.

The pouting miniaturism of her act served well among the masques and bergamasques of Debussy's Verlaine settings. The music here, particularly as realised in Malcolm Martineau's astute piano accompaniment, directs such a vivid harlequinade that vocalise will do almost as well as language. And in the dizzy dances of Luigi Arditi's "The Kiss" and Meyerbeer's "Ombre légère" from *Dinorah* the footwork had been well learnt.

Richard Strauss, though, demands a little human input, and this Sumi Jo finds difficult. Her coloratura soprano has neither a wide palette of colour, nor the fragrance which is given off where physical sound touches musical nerve. Nothing less than the response of a human heart is needed for songs like "An die Nacht".

Its beating was glimpsed briefly in "Caro nome" (Gilda was Jo's debut role in Trieste), and in her valedictory Christmas wishes for peace, sweetness and light, embodied in those words she remembered of "Oh holy night".

HILARY FINCH

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

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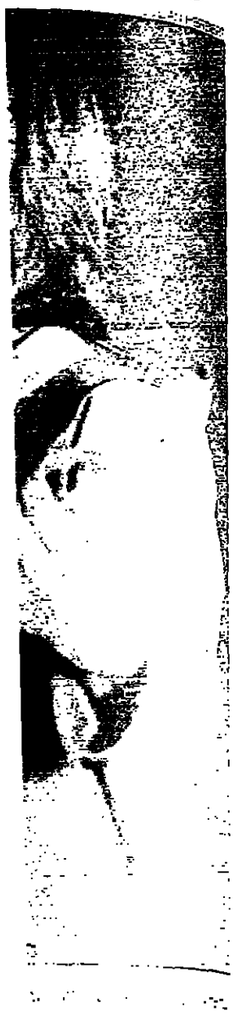
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صكذا من الاصل



THEATRE: A new Alan Ayckbourn at the Pit; Shakespearean comedy on tour; vampires in Leicester



DONALD COOPER

Warren (Gary Whitaker) is flattered by the attention of Sophie Thompson's Marcie as she bubbles away, indiscriminately directing charm and warmth at whoever passes

Games that only losers play

Alan Ayckbourn's first production for the RSC shows him in fine form, mixing pathos and comedy as only he can. **Benedict Nightingale** reports

The figures huddled together in the suburban living-room would not look out of place on a coach trip to Bournemouth, but they have rather more exotic destinations in mind. Should they venture up the Mountains of Ag, or wend their way to the Kingdom of the Fish People, or maybe strike south to the Dead Place, land of Balaac the Beast. "What sayst thou, Herwin, Silent Battle Warrior?" earnestly asks the mousy man in the cardigan of the grave, pale girl in the bomber jacket. "Yer, fine, that's OK by me" comes the reply.

We are only moments into Alan Ayckbourn's *Wildest Dreams*, and already we have an inkling of the troubles to come. Never mind the prospective battle between Balaac and Herwin, "half woman, half machine". Tolkienian fantasy is in conflict with Ayckbournian reality for control of people who are, it turns out, as sorry a lot as ever emerged from the funny-glum imagination of the maestro of Scarborough.

Remember that hotel which slowly fell into the sea just a few hundred yards away from Ayckbourn's theatre? There must be something in the Scarborough air not mentioned in the tourist brochures, for several of the characters in *Wildest Dreams*, too, are perched on the brink of their private cliffs watching the earth crumble beneath them. The marriage of Stanley and Hazel — aka Alric the Wise and Idonia the Enchantress — *is* in menopausal crisis. Rick, or Herwin the Fearless, is a lonely lesbian precariously surviving in the basement of her parents' old house. Warren, who is also Xenon the Far-Sighted, is a bashful computer buff with a terror of women.

No wonder they take refuge and find solace in Dungeons and Dragons. But they would hardly be playing it so assiduously if they were not peculiarly vulnerable to the pressures of the world outside. One push, and they are, so to speak, over the edge and on the rocks below. That push is now provided by that dramatically convenient figure, the intruder and catalyst: in this case a workmate of Rick's on the run from a vicious husband.

Marcie, as she is called, is one of the evening's half-successes. As played by Sophie Thompson, she bubbles away, indiscriminately directing charm and warmth at whoever passes, but quickly changing the subject when she is asked questions about herself. She too clearly has her problems, ones that in another play might be more fully explored. Here, her function is to nudge the games-players either deeper into fantasy or uncomfortably out of it.

Stanley (Barry McCarthy) falls haplessly in love with her, while a jealous Hazel (Brenda Blethyn) retreats into infantilism. Warren (Gary Whitaker), flattered at long last by a pretty woman, decides he is a genius from another galaxy and starts subjecting his bewildered mother, whom he regards as an inferior stellar species, to electronic harassment. Rick (Jenna Russell) somewhat improbably sees off Marcie's violent husband and sets up house with her, only to discover (if I read an understated denouement aright) one of the oldest Ayckbourn truths: even unconventional marriage has its problems.

In the course of the evening, dark secrets are uncovered. Ayckbourn is well known for his willingness to tackle subjects not often associated with comedy, but here he outdoes himself quantitively and probably qualitatively too. Sexual abuse has occurred in Rick's past, and male brutality recurs in her present. No fewer than two characters go certifiably mad. Hazel ends up an almost worse case than the wife in *Just Between Ourselves*, who was reduced by an insensitive husband and an envious mother-in-law to a human vegetable: she crawls about in nappies, finding in baby toys the happiness denied to adults in Ayckbourn plays.

It is hardly surprising that this particular moment, surreal as it is, should seem imperfectly motivated; but some of the play's other developments do feel more preplanned and less plausible than they might.

Yet there are some distinct pluses. Ayckbourn has always taken delight in giving serious situations — those botched suicides in *Absurd Person Singular*, for instance — a slant that renders them comic. But now he seems ready to wipe the smiles right off our collective faces. Rick's initial humilation by Marcie's horrible husband is what it surely should be: chilling and nothing else.

But don't be afraid that his first production for the RSC has stricken him solemn. The old Ayckbourn is also to be seen, notably in the superb scene in which Blethyn's grieving Hazel maunders adenoidally on about her wasted youth while Stanley shuffles, looks at his watch, and talks of a tenting holiday. Only he could have written it. Only he could have made lines like "always worth a cry, life" simultaneously touching and amusing. What a talent this, his 42nd play, shows him still to be.

Comic fizz has gone rather flat

The Two Gentlemen of Verona
Haymarket

Too much delight has slipped away from David Thacker's touring production of his 1992 charmer, so that a glance at the reviews it received a year ago makes puzzling reading. "Sparkling", "delectable", "a real treat" — how did all these qualities fade? For that matter, where did the comedy go? Very little laughter greeted the playing except in the surefire scenes between Launce and his doleful dog, and the Duke of Milan's appeal to young Proteus for hints on how to elope with a strongly guarded woman — the joke being that Proteus intends to steal the Duke's daughter within the hour, and the Duke already knows this.

The play is one of Shakespeare's earliest, trickiest comedies and has seldom been greatly liked, but 20 years ago Robin Phillips performed a minor miracle, setting the play on a sun-baked beach in a campus world steeped in sexual posturing. This was the time when Ian Richardson was gracing the RSC with a dozen exquisite performances, and each time his Proteus mentioned the "corded ladder" that he proposed to use to rescue his girl he gave a delighted gurgle of incredulity at the phrase or the very idea or both. The point is, he used his voice to colour a line, and there is precious little of this same artistry at work here.

Thacker has placed his virtually uncut production in the 1930s and points mood-changes by using love songs of the period sung by Bronwyn Baud in a voice like cool honey. A 1930s band plays within an elegant gazebo at the rear of the stage, and their contribution is delectable enough. But Dominic Arnold's vociferous Valentine lacks depth, and the Proteus of Ben Miles is no less shallow until the imperatives of love chivvy him into betraying his friend. Arguing with his hands as he flounders through multiple disloyalties, Miles makes the character's predicament real.

The girls fare somewhat better and when Alison Reid's Julia, inevitably disguised as a boy, receives sympathy from the Silvia of Sarah-Jane Holm on the matter of male treachery, the timbre of their voices is genuinely touching.

But the only feeling in this superficial play that is real and deep and strong is Launce's concern for his dog. The bowler-hatted Richard



Alison Reid as Julia in David Thacker's staging

Moore and Woolly, a pewter-coloured wolfhound, are the only survivors from the original cast, and their gentle double-act provides three delightful scenes in which the dog looks profoundly unfazed by any criticism his loving master directs at him, and eventually faces the audience with a most extraordinary smile. In a play where human protestations for one another are flashy and rhetorical, the plain speaking and dumb show of one man and his dog make an ironic comment.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Teething troubles

The Thirst
Haymarket, Leicester

Gavin Robertson was the man behind the West End hit *Thunderbirds FAB*. His company, Mime Theatre Project, is also responsible for *The Three Musketeers* which returns to Riverside as part of the London International Mime Festival in January.

Perhaps Robertson works best from a really well defined pre-existing starting point. His new play, *The Thirst*, though it has its roots in vampire myths, is a pretty free variation on that theme.

Victor Alfreds visits a health farm where he engages in a love-hate relationship with an employee, Rose. During his stay, in a series of dreams, he remembers his past life, incarnated as an expat in Africa in 1792. This former Victor vied with his brother for Louisa Valconte and, on losing his brother, became the victim of the vampire Jacob Edwards. Subsequently, Louise in Africa and Rose in England become Victor's potential prey.

Robertson, in resisting the staple diet of the Dracula story, seems to have bitten off more than he can chew. The splitting of the action between past and present means none of the characters are fleshed out fully. Robertson tots up mileage zigzagging between countries, but the plot goes very slowly and not very far.

Robertson's decision to write, direct, design and act in the piece strikes me as a mistake. His performance as John, Victor's gambling, wine-guzzling bad sheep of a brother, has little flair. He and Simon J. Williamson (Victor) engage in supposedly fierce quarrels, yet they hardly have the blood pumping.

Victoria Worsley (Louisa/Rose) grapples determinedly with a couple of unthankful parts. James D. McKechnie (Jacob) injects some charisma into the proceedings but his Gothic horror mannerisms (the mad glower and clenching hands) are surely too long in the tooth to be believable.

The production, largely due to Tanya Burns's lighting, flashes up an arresting image every so often. Jacob, devilishly well-dressed in his red velvet tail-coat, suddenly glows into being, his image burning through the gauze backcloth like an evil angel surfacing from Victor's subconscious. However, costumes and props from different centuries intrude on each other. Robertson also has an embarrassing fondness for getting actors to leap melodramatically onto tables.

Though at first the detailed, wordless physical action was engrossing, the pausing of the script fast became an absolute drag. The tedium was accentuated by slightly unbelievable interactions, and by characters lacking personalised voices and graspable social identities. Jacob is not the only one for whom "the clock ticks so very slowly".

KATE BASSETT

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Dream-ticket from the Russians

Philharmonia/ Svetlanov
Festival Hall

Another combination of Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky from Yevgeny Svetlanov and the Philharmonia Orchestra to follow their previous programme together produced another display of smouldering incandescence that was constantly stimulating for the audience. Vladimir Ovchinnikov, rapidly gaining a discriminating following here since his 1987 triumph in the Leeds Piano Competition, was the soloist this time, disbursing a generous measure of virtuosity and character in Rachmaninov's D minor Concerto (No 3).

Although my allotted seat, too close to the orchestral cellos, deprived me of seeing his long-fingered keyboard technique, so much admired by some colleagues (and incidentally meant the orchestral woodwind was blanketed by the open piano lid, with a consequent lopsided perspective), the measured weight of piano tone brought no doubt of the pianist's deep feeling for the work and its essentially Slav character from the opening scene onwards.

His use of the pedals ensured the utmost clarity in the passagework, however fast, while he encompassed the richness of double-handed chords with majestic authority. He allowed a natural sense of *rubato* to bring light and shade to the quieter moments, and a certain brittleness suited the *scherzando* episode in a finale that built eventually to the keyboard equivalent of martial arts in the last great climax.



Svetlanov: the players applauded his entrance

Svetlanov and the orchestra summoned a bravado of their own to match the pianist, and surpassed it at times in an account of Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony no less revelatory than Hilary Finch wrote of their Sixth Symphony on this page last Monday. Here Svetlanov, who had the rare accolade of applause from the players before he began as well as afterwards, probed beneath the surface in the early movements to disclose the poignant musical subtext.

This enriched the emotional turbulence on the surface, stirred up by the occasional raised fist or stabbing forefinger, while the warm but incisive string playing in the *andantino* second movement was complemented by the crisp and invigorating *pizzicato ostinato* that followed. The conductor risked everything in the furious momentum and surface brilliance of the finale, and was rewarded with a commanding response that brought him and the orchestra a deserved ovation.

NOEL GOODWIN

Finesse applied to neglected corners

Tallis Scholars
QEH

Most people try to lose a year or two as they get on. Peter Phillips' Tallis Scholars have just announced that they are five years older than we thought. It was not, apparently, in 1978 that they were founded: that was when they went professional. Phillips conducted his first concert with them in 1973, so 21st birthday celebrations are being lined up for the next year.

One feature of those celebrations will be the release of a disc of sacred music by Cipriano de Rore, including the *Missa Praeter rerum seriem*, along with the Josquin motet of the same name. These two works formed the first half of the Tallis Scholars' concert at the QEH on Tuesday, thus providing an opportunity to hear both the Rore mass and the six-part Josquin motet of which it is a parody setting.

Rore's sacred music has generally been neglected in favour of his Italian madrigals and in all honesty it is difficult to imagine this particular work, for all its virtues, restoring the balance. The vocal writing cleaves to a narrow compass and displays neither the Italianate lyricism of Rore's own madrigals, nor the variety of voice-leading familiar from the sacred works of such contemporaries as Palestrina and Victoria.

The *Missa Praeter rerum seriem* does have its moments, however. There is a burst of rhythmic activity in the lower voices at "Et Exspecto" in the Credo, a delightful interweaving of two soprano voices and tenor in the Benedictus, and some wonderfully expansive lines, with full, sustained harmonies in the Agnus Dei.

The cool, perfectly controlled, Anglican delivery of the Scholars worked well enough here, but I yearned for more intensity, more drama, in the works reserved for the second half. One pair of sopranos in the Salve Regina for double choir by Palestrina hinted more at a vibrant, cutting edge than the other; the hint was not picked up.

The Scholars' finesse of technique and tone were ideal for Ockeghem's setting of the same text, which one could both admire for its mastery and respond to emotionally for its touching beauty. The Magnificat of the single representative of the English school, William Cornysh, with its lively, rhythmic part-writing and its soaring sonorities, at last gave the Scholars the chance to raise the temperature with an element of risk-taking. It paid off handsomely.

BARRY MILLINGTON

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Eagles all but few can sing

Michael Hofmann finds Russian poetry this century is all about public reputation

Sometimes I think the last sound in the world will be Yevtushenko beating on his drum. There is something apocalyptic about his self-promotion. "He has toured 93 countries with his electrifying poetry readings" says the blurb, "and his work has been translated into 72 languages." Not the still small voice, more the mighty Russian wind.

He is a phenomenal success and a phenomenal survivor — although neither in the end may count for much. His equivalent in politics is the cuddly early Ceausescu, in prose someone like Christa Wolf. All three secured their bases at home, and went about exporting themselves to the West as secret hopes in the Missile Age. Ceausescu got his knighthood, Wolf her guru status, Yevtushenko his translations by John Updike and his membership of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Here, in concert with the late Max Hayward (original translator of *Doctor Zhivago*) and his own translator, Albert C. Todd, Yevtushenko has assembled a 1,000-page anthology of Russian 20th-century poetry. By far the most notable thing about it is its sheer scale, dimensions, decibellage. "Some 830 poems" by "253 remarkable poets". The table of contents alone takes up 50 pages, and that's Roman numerals. It puts me in mind of Rilke's Malte Laurids Brigge, who had trouble enough in saying "I am reading a poet" — never mind 253 of them.

TWENTIETH-CENTURY RUSSIAN POETRY
Selected by Yevgeny Yevtushenko
Edited by Albert C. Todd and Max Hayward
Fourth Estate, £30

The book was originally planned 20 years ago, at half the size, but then Hayward died and it grew and grew. The reason, I think, is that it is now basically a Russian book. Poems and poets are included for Russian reasons, for what they represent in Russia and in Russian.

For all the fond (and demeaning) dedication of the book to the "American business person", no English-speaking eye has been cast over it. With few exceptions, the translations are torpid. If you think what pines do is "sough", then this is the book for you. The proofreading is some of the worst I have ever seen: "the United Sates", "Alchemist" for "Acmeist", Yevtushenko himself interestingly as "the complier" for "compiler". Yevtushenko's exuberant miked-up introductions of the poets always manage a superlative, even if it's only "possibly the most talented of the so-called incomprehensible poets." Everything seems to have been done to make it impossible for the English reader to take it seriously.

When what the English reader craves is selection, this is an oddly forgiving anthology, putting in "graphomanes" alongside poets who never published a line, poets who sing and play the guitar, poets who were good bureaucrats and kind people and poets who loosed off a few rounds at Sarajevo, poets who were five years old and poets better known for their prose (and rightly!) — even the poet Churchill saw in 1942 guarding the Kremlin and eating ice cream, causing him to exclaim: "A people who eat ice cream at *minus* forty degrees cannot be defeated!"

In fact it seems more like a cemetery than an anthology — everyone ends up in it: the exiles, the pioneers, the youthful suicides and the old indestructibles. It is an act of atonement — or even at-one-ment — capturing the rivalrous swarms of Russian poets, the 19th-century aristos, the early revolutionaries, the Soviets and their victims (often the same people), the whispering dissenters, the next wave of émigrés, and imprisoning them between the covers of one book. The poetry, Yevtushenko claims, is indivisible, but that isn't how the poets felt, nor is it how the anthology reads, for that you only need to hear the loud slurping in its third centile, which is the sound of the artistry pre-1925 (approximately) draining away.

Twentieth-century Russian poetry is a poetry of personal authority, and of personal succession. Institutions like the Gorky Literary Institute, or individuals like Gorky, Mayakovsky, Ehrenburg and no doubt nowadays Yevtushenko himself, confer their blessings on the young. It is a poetry of event and character and credit, rather than the page alone. I can imagine a handshake, a reading or a letter being quite as important as any poem. It is, lastly, critic-driven, full of carefully nurtured reputations and quarrels and a great proliferation of amazing names of movements.

And the individuals? The biggest showing, rather to my surprise, and one of the best, was of Alexander Blok, who with 40 pages has almost twice as much space as anyone else. His poems are like Edvard Munch put into words:

Each evening, at the appointed moment
(Or is this only in a dream?)
A girl's shape in a silken garment
Shows dark against the window's steam.

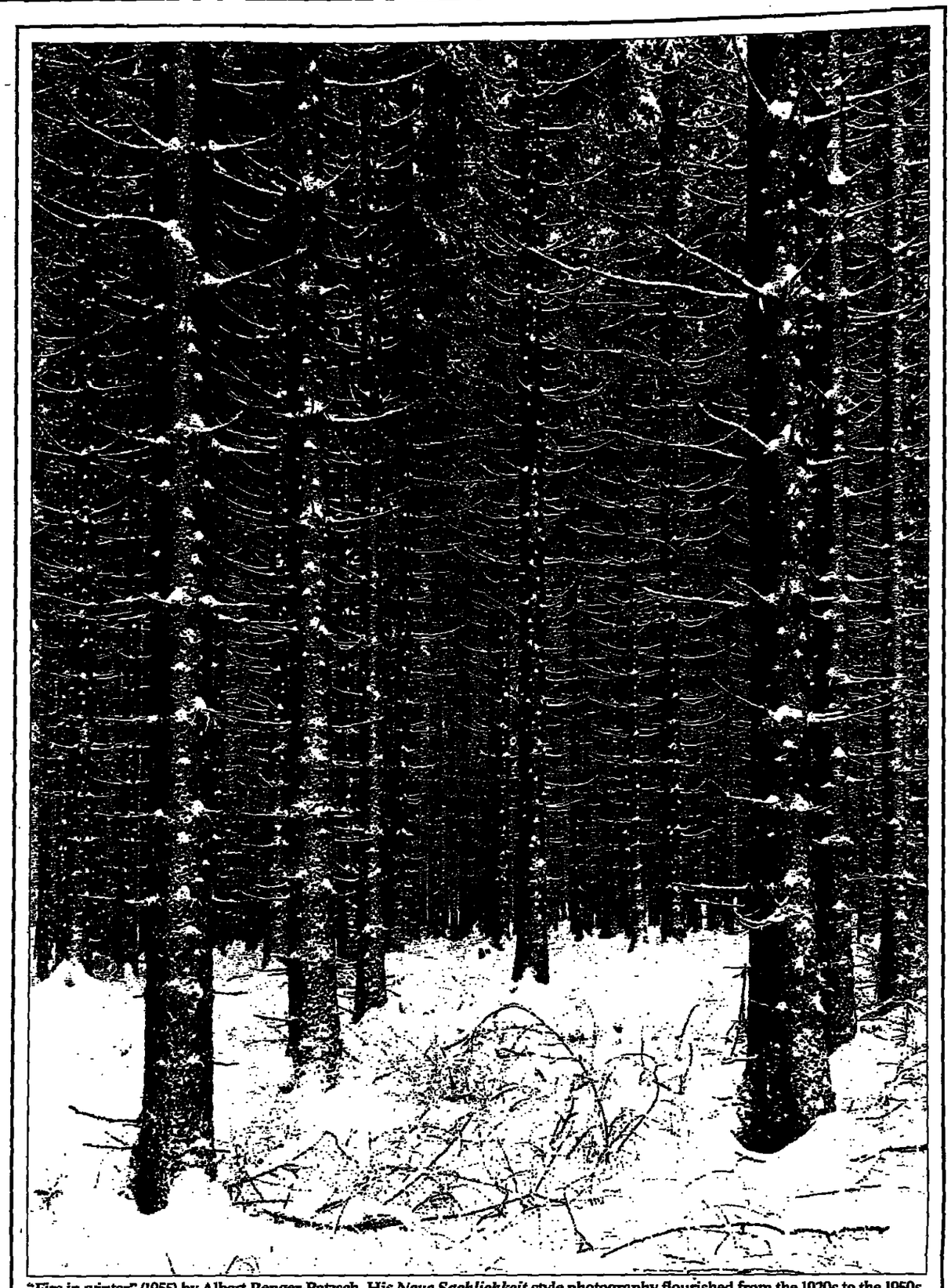
Mandelstam and Akhmatova are superbly compressed:

Time clips me like a coin.
And there isn't enough of me left for myself

I loved the *tristesse* of Georgy Ivanov (1894-1958), and then not much until Akhmadulina and Moritz (both born in 1937) and Joseph Brodsky (born in 1940), who alone awakens memories of the century in its pomp:

Cyrillic, while running witless
on the pad as though to escape the captor,
knows more of the future than the famous sibyl:
of how to darken against the whiteness,
as long as the whiteness lasts. And after.

The cyrillic of the others might just about do to tie his shoes.



"Firs in winter" (1955) by Albert Renger-Patzsch. His *Neue Sachlichkeit*-style photography flourished from the 1920s to the 1950s. From *Joy before the Object*, a Renger-Patzsch issue of *Aperture*, with essay by Donald Kuspit *(distributor: Robert Hale, £14.99)*

Tale of a Tsarist holy city

Anne Applebaum

KIEV
A Portrait, 1800-1917
By Michael F. Hamm
Princeton University Press, £21.95

Among Eastern Europe's many forgotten cities, Kiev is one of the few whose name still evokes a set of images in the West: a picture of icons, onion domes and wooden houses, if nothing else. Perhaps this is because the city was once the capital of Kievan Rus, the medieval state which both Russia and Ukraine claim as an ancestor; perhaps it is because Kiev now serves as the spiritual capital of one and the *de facto* capital of the other. Or perhaps it is merely because Kiev sits on a series of hills, overlooks the Dniepro river, and (unusually for former Soviet cities) possesses a certain charm.

It was not always so. After the fall of Rus, Kiev was neglected, occupied by the Mongols, the Poles, and finally Tsarist Russia. Catherine the Great visited in 1787, and complained that "from the time I've arrived I've looked around for a city, but so far, I've found only two fortresses and some outlying settlements." But in the 19th century — the subject of this book — Kiev began to change again, playing a part in the burst of capitalist expansion which then spread across the Russian empire.

Using a wealth of detail, garnered from surprisingly extensive sources — letters, memoirs and newspapers — Michael Hamm demonstrates that the Kiev of this era was typical of other Russian cities, containing the same urban discontent which helped topple the Tsar in St Petersburg. Kiev's cafés contained the same mix of revolutionary socialists and anarchists, albeit in a more provincial version, and the same contrasts between rich and poor.

Peasant women came to the city and slept in courtyards, tying themselves together with ropes to avoid being dragged away; rich aristocrats threw away money at cards. The municipal government deliberately failed to prevent mobs from launching terrible pogroms against the Jews, in 1881 and again in 1905, partly because they hoped that such distractions would prevent the same rabble from attacking the state.

But this carefully detailed account reveals another side of the city's history as well. For while Russian was the language of daily life, Kiev was also home to Poles, Jews and Ukrainians, each of whom brought a special set of qualities to the city. Polish was the language of higher education until mid-century, and western ideas about sovereignty, nationhood, and even democracy filtered into the city through the small Polish community.

Jews provided some of the city's entrepreneurial energy, especially through large, family-run businesses. Ukrainian influence was officially stifled: the Ukrainian language was suppressed. Ukrainian nationalists in Kiev often fled Russia for western Ukraine (then under Austrian rule) and methods of keeping statistics often placed Ukrainians in the "Russian" category, making them difficult to count.

Nevertheless, Hamm points out that by the end of the century, Ukrainian clubs met in the city, and Ukrainian books sat on library shelves. He successfully demonstrates that Ukrainian influence was probably much stronger than official documents reveal.

Reading this book, one is tempted to play the "what if" game: what if Kiev had been given a few more decades to develop commercially? What if the Ukrainians had been allowed more time to define themselves as a nation? What if the city's many nationalities had eventually managed to discard their various resentments of one another, and to work with one another against Russian tyranny?

Some of the elements of a successful, capitalist, independent Ukraine lay in 19th century Kiev. But when Tsarist Russia collapsed, they were much too weak to take control. Ukraine failed to win its independence, and Kiev spent most of the 20th-century as a provincial Soviet city.

Oddly enough, some of the scenes which Hamm describes have played themselves out again more recently. Nationalist demonstrators wearing blue and yellow ribbons, the colours of the Ukrainian flag, marched through Kiev in 1911. In 1990, similar Ukrainian nationalists, with similar ideas, some wearing similar ribbons, marched again. This book helps to put present events in context, showing that at least one of the "new" nationalisms in the former Soviet Union has old and very deep roots.

Hard right versus soft centre

The neo-fascist revival across Europe, from the run-down inner cities of the affluent West to the vast concrete jungles of the post-communist rust-belt in the East, has preoccupied scholars and commentators in recent months. Even the electoral triumphs of the "reformed" communists in Poland and of their Italian comrades in the recent municipal elections, or the surge of support for their counterparts in local elections in Brandenburg, are hardly likely to shift the focus from right to left.

The concentration on the extreme right may be overdone, but it reflects the decay and disorientation of the centre ground. The end of the Cold War does not seem to have dealt the death-blow to the Marxist left that was confidently expected. It also seems to have released demons of the right from their narrow quarantine. The glad morning of perpetual centrist government in 1989 has long since dissipated. Polarisation, not consensus, is the order of the day. What distinguishes the neo-fascist right from the rejuvenated left is its failure to put on a respectable face. Giancarlo Fini and Jean-Marie Le Pen may dress like any other professional vote-catcher, but they cannot easily play down their association with the brutish right. Designer-post-communism has shrugged off the skeletons in its cupboard with more panache.



Russian fascists six months ago: now Zhirinovsky is their hero

The violent right-wing fringe deserves attention if only because it illustrates in extreme form the failure of centrist wishful thinking to inculcate civilised values into alienated young people. Far more than revolt against unemployment or capitalism, the urge to beat up immigrants seems to be a brutal negation of the dominant liberal code of values, which lacks a heavy hand to back itself up when challenged. Denying the Holocaust is more about offending liberal sensitivities than defending Hitler — though that is little comfort.

The disorientation of the liberal mind when challenged by thugs who otherwise would be characterised as "victims" of society is an unspoken theme running through both these books. Bjorgo and Witte provide a generally useful set of essays dealing with the history and mentality of the violent fringe, especially in archetypically social democratic societies like Sweden and The Netherlands. Paul Hockenos describes a kind of odyssey through the world of inarticulate racism, starting out from his adopted home in Berlin. Although Hockenos is better on Germany, which he knows well, than when repeating blanket descriptions of Croatia (for instance), *Free to hate* contains much interesting material.

Neither book, however, really tackles post-communist racism and nationalism. Although the reform communists make much of the running in the more advanced parts of Europe, there is an equally striking phenomenon in the East of "Reds" turned "Brown". Many of the openly anti-Semitic or anti-Gypsy Romanians whom Hockenos describes in nauseating detail were prominent propagandists under Ceausescu.

Marxist textbooks used to define fascism as the by-product of the difficulties of the market economy when bourgeois demagogues distracted the proletariat from the causes of its suffering by focusing its grievances on racial scapegoats. Now ex-communist rabble-rousers seem to have adopted this ploy as their own strategy. It remains to be seen whether designer-suited reform communists or their hamfisted ex-comrades will make the running in the long term if the economies in Eastern Europe and the ex-Soviet Union continue downhill. If affluence cannot stifle hatreds in the West, what will its failure to arrive in the East mean?

Mark Almond

FREE TO HATE
The Rise of the Right in Post-Communist Eastern Europe
By Paul Hockenos
Routledge, £17.99

RACIST VIOLENCE IN EUROPE
Edited by Tore Bjorgo and Rob Witte
Macmillan, £12.99 pbk original

Lands of hope and lost glory

Lesley Chamberlain

BLOOD AND BELONGING
Journeys into the New Nationalism
By Michael Ignatieff
BBC Books, £16.99

EXIT INTO HISTORY
A Journey through the New Eastern Europe
By Eva Hoffman
Heinemann, £16.99

Michael Ignatieff begins from his own erroneous assumption in 1989, shared by many, that the world was about to experience a new era of liberal democracy after the fall of communism. Instead he watched in horror as violent nationalism devoured former Yugoslavia and turned united Germany into an ugly arena of neo-fascism.

To get a grip on the nature of nationalist sentiment with its more or less ferocious consequences, he widened his travels to his grandparents' native Ukraine, and found a backward country more becalmed than renewed by its break with Russia. Further afield again the independence movement in Quebec proved specially curious and alienating for an anglophone but nevertheless bilingual Canadian. What was the point of divorcing the Canadian federation, and insisting by law on French as the national language, when the existing loose marriage was so healthy and productive?

The homeless Kurds presented Ignatieff with a far more extreme situation. It was as if he had been talking now to an affluent couple wanting to move house, now to a pair sleeping rough. The Kurds' violence wasn't to be condoned but their struggle was intelligible because they could only be fully human beings when they had a place of their own. Northern Ireland then confirmed what the philosopher and the empirical traveller had come to agree upon: that civic nationalism (here in the form of the British government), with its respect for state institutions binding together multi-ethnic communities, was the only hope of containing ethnic nationalism.

Freud called ethnic exclusiveness the narcissism of minor differences. One might call it the flower of evil, which flourishes in times, like the post-communist disorientation, when panic over basic well-being leads the terrified to terrorise each other. Ignatieff, while insisting he remains a liberal, has come to acknowledge, from long tense hours spent with gun-toting, sexually aggressive young males on border posts, that the love of violence is an essential human characteristic. Talk of ethnic differences, inconsistent, inexact, supported by kitsch sentiment, is used to justify mindless joy in violence.

Blood and Belonging, tied to a recent television series, satisfyingly combines Ignatieff's skills as philosopher and broadcaster. Those who have watched the programme should ponder this lucid introduction and conclusion to his journeys between hard covers.

Eva Hoffman, with her Polish roots and more literary inclination, was driven to Eastern Europe less by political optimism than a desire to witness other people's changing lives firsthand. Her long, anecdotal narrative, successfully shows how reality is more tangled than concepts like anti-Semitism, nationalism and communism can suggest.

Her journeys of 1990 and 1991 have in one sense dated. She notes the reversion to communism in her last destination, Bulgaria, but is too early to record a parallel swing in Poland. Her first trip to Poland three years ago radiates an optimism, still derived from Solidarity, which has since vanished.

But in so many other ways Eastern Europe has changed hardly at all. The same strengths and the same issues which lay under the surface when I made my own journeys in the early 1980s confront Hoffman a decade later. There is barely repressed violence in Romania; a concern with the destructive psychological consequences of self-censorship in Hungary; and resilient, charismatic personalities everywhere, charged with a sense of their country's history.

Hoffman is attentive to the brutal intimacy of power. The desire to persecute, the temptation to bureaucratic obfuscation still linger, along with an often admirable central European concern with "What is Europe?" The incongruities arising out of shortages leave the traveller feeling she is part of a theatre of the absurd. She is afraid, she longs for home, but always she is lured on by cultural sustenance from the margins.

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DAY DECEMBER 16 19

Tale of a Tsarist holy city

Anne Applebaum

Is onwards upwards?

Jean Aitchison takes issue with a literary study of language and argues that linguistic evolution does not equal decline

THE DESCENT OF LANGUAGE
By Rod Mengham
Bloomsbury, £19.99

A frog in a nutshell — a Chinese expression for someone with a restricted view — is how many academics appear to those outside universities. Researchers may burnish their nutshells superbly, but they often fail to explain how the gleaming result relates to the rest of the world. This courageous book attempts to break out of the nutshell, by examining language across a wide range of settings. For a Cambridge specialist in Eng. Lit. to branch out in this way is praiseworthy and fairly unusual.

But here the frog has overstretched its legs, as it leaps across cultures, topics and centuries: the pot-pourri of ideas explored leads to a book that is in turns inspiring, insightful, pretentious and plain misleading. Its main message — the power and importance of language — comes across well. Few would dispute Mengham's claim that "when we relinquish our hold on the language we use, we relinquish the entire shape of our lives". Otherwise, this engaging book is perhaps more important for the enthusiasm it generates, than for the information it conveys.

The author takes the descent of language from the Tower of Babel as a positive trajectory, with descent meaning "derivation from an ancestral stock", "transmission by inheritance". Language, mind and brain are his starting point. Humans are pre-programmed for language, he points out, as is now generally accepted. The link between speech and writing, the spread of Indo-European languages, language in ancient Greece, universal grammars, the attempt to impose a standard language — are all fairly predictable components of such a book.

More controversial is the claim that language operates "as a medium of exchange comparable to that of money", and that artistic use of language complicates this normal procedure. He further asserts that "the link between money and words, always important, has come to form an absolutely central strand in the fabric of modern society". This leads on to discussion of the strait-jacket potentially imposed by language: the author fears that a "reduction of scope of expressive power in the effective functioning of natural language... is increasingly likely with the growth of computer literacy" — so leading to the speculation that descent in terms of decline may be a real possibility for language in the current age.

It is hard to think of another book which juxtaposes so many weird statements alongside perceptive comments. Take the author's bizarre assertion that ancient Greek was "a language that is prone to a constant slippage or fluctuation of meaning" — something true of all languages, at all times. Or the even odder pronouncement that "'tragedy' is the result when a culture is no longer able to stabilise the meanings of its words": only the fictional Newspeak in George Orwell's *1984* was anywhere near achieving such stability.

Or consider his strange claim that artistic use of language complicates its operation as a medium of exchange. Yet there is no rigid divide between everyday language and "artistic" language, as much recent work has shown, since "ordinary" language is shot through with metaphor. Apparently "dead" metaphors may have more influence on a person's thought processes than is commonly supposed.

On the plus side, the author realises that entire domains of experience are in the grip of cultural metaphors, some of them deriving from economics: "He's rich in ideas" implies that the accumulation of wealth is a praiseworthy aim. Yet there are numerous other equally influential domains which he fails to mention, such as emotions, where love, lust and anger are often envisaged as heated liquid in a container: "He simmered with anger", "He seethed with rage", "He blew his top". Such images can lead to an acceptance that it is "natural" to explode, if anyone is sufficiently heated, it has been claimed. In other cultures, this may not be the norm: in India, anger is arguably a dry heat which needs to be soothed with emollients.

Above all, it is ridiculous to claim that language might be "descending". It is in no more danger from trade or computers today, than from other domains such as religion in past centuries. The moral is that it is important for speakers to be on the look out: powerful images may slip by without notice, while subtly altering our way of thought.

"Being well-informed is but a stone's throw from being boring," Quentin Crisp once said. This book is certainly not boring, and it communicates a heady enthusiasm for the importance of language: but it is a pity that the author did not find out more about it before he wrote this fascinating but flawed book.

Jean Aitchison is the Rupert Murdoch Professor of Language and Communication at the University of Oxford.

Monuments to information

REFERENCE

All reference books tend to monumentalism: absolute accuracy is absolutely monumental. According to the **Bloomsbury Guide to Human Thought**, edited by Kenneth McLeish *(Bloomsbury, £19.99)*, the 35-volume *Encyclopédie* edited by Denis Diderot was the "first monument" of the Enlightenment. No wonder the French swiftly rendered the monster obsolete by staging a revolution in its honour. These days encyclopedias are more expensive to produce and less ambitious. The Britannica, now 225 years old, has not had a new edition since the 15th in 1975. The electronic era brings with it great risks for publishers of such works.

But the encyclopedia still makes a munificent Christmas present, and the most monumental example on offer this Christmas is certainly the newly-completed **Oxford Illustrated Encyclopedia**. Priced at £175 for nine volumes of 3,300 pages, rising to £200 next April, this set is a considerable investment, but sumptuously illustrated, printed and bound. Each volume covers a vast field, and has a prominent general editor: John Julius Norwich, Richard Hoggart, Sir Vivian Fuchs among them. Volume four, edited by Robert Blake, covers world history from 1800 to the present, and lives up to its promise. While one could occasionally do with more precise facts and figures (the eight lines on the Berlin Wall, for instance, tell us why it was built but do not say by whom, how many died there, nor the date when it was opened), this is an ideal family reference work.

At only £60 for 3,008 pages, the single-volume, alphabetically-arranged **Columbia Encyclopedia**, fifth edition, is just as up-to-date as the Oxford and represents even better value for money. An American work first published in 1935 and distributed in Britain by Cassell, the Columbia has few pictures, but it often provides more detail than its rivals. The article on the Berlin Wall tells you more about its fall than the Oxford. If Kenneth Clarke has obliged you to stick to a no-nonsense budget, this could be the encyclopedia for you. Lighter and cheaper, but still comprehensive one-volume works are the revised **Guinness Encyclopedia** and the **Hutchinson Encyclopedia**, 10th edition. The Guinness, arranged like the Oxford, according to subject-headings costs £29.95 for 760 pages, while the alphabetical Hutchinson costs £35 for 1,525 pages.

For children, the crop this year is thin. Best value is an old favourite, the **Junior Pears Encyclopedia**, 33rd edition, which offers a wealth of information (though few pictures) for £12.99. The **Usborne World of Knowledge Encyclopedia** costs £17.95 for 391 nicely illustrated pages, but its reach is oddly defined as "science, geography and nature" only. Two volumes from Reader's Digest — **When, Where, Why and How It Happened** (£24.95) and **Discovering the Wonders of Our World** (£21.95) — are unattractively bound but contain solid enough fare.

The **Chronicle of the 20th Century** *(JL International, £39.95* for 1,456 pages) edited by Derrik Mercer is the latest of the month-by-month diary-like doorstops, and one of the most useful. It reminds the reader of improbable juxtapositions: I for one had forgotten that, while in Berlin the old Communist order was crumbling, in London the apparently quixotic Sir Anthony Meyer was issuing his challenge to Mrs Thatcher. Among other recent volumes from this French series are **Chronicle of Britain** (£29.95) and **Chronicle of America** (£34.95).

Among almanacks, **Whitaker's 1994**, 126th edition, remains supreme. After introducing a new, more reader-friendly format last year, Hilary Marsden, the general editor, has added more information within the same compass: 1,278 pages for £25. Cheaper alternatives include Macmillan's **World Almanack**, £8.99, and **Pears Cyclopedia**, which costs £14.99.

This has been a good year for dictionaries, led by **The New Shorter Oxford**, which, at £60 for two handsome volumes, must be among the most enticing options for a very special present this Christmas. Among the many others I should mention the **Chambers Dictionary**, a fine one-volume work at £22.50; the reliable **Cassell Concise** series, ranging from £9.99 to £11.99, including paperback, family and student versions; and the **Collins Pocket** three-volume boxed set, including English dictionary, thesaurus, grammar and usage, all for £15.99. **Fifty Years Among the New Words: A Dictionary of Neologisms**, edited by John Algeo *(Cambridge, £15.95 pbk)* is a more specialised — but for



Portrait by Gouin, from *Early Erotic Photography* (Taschen)

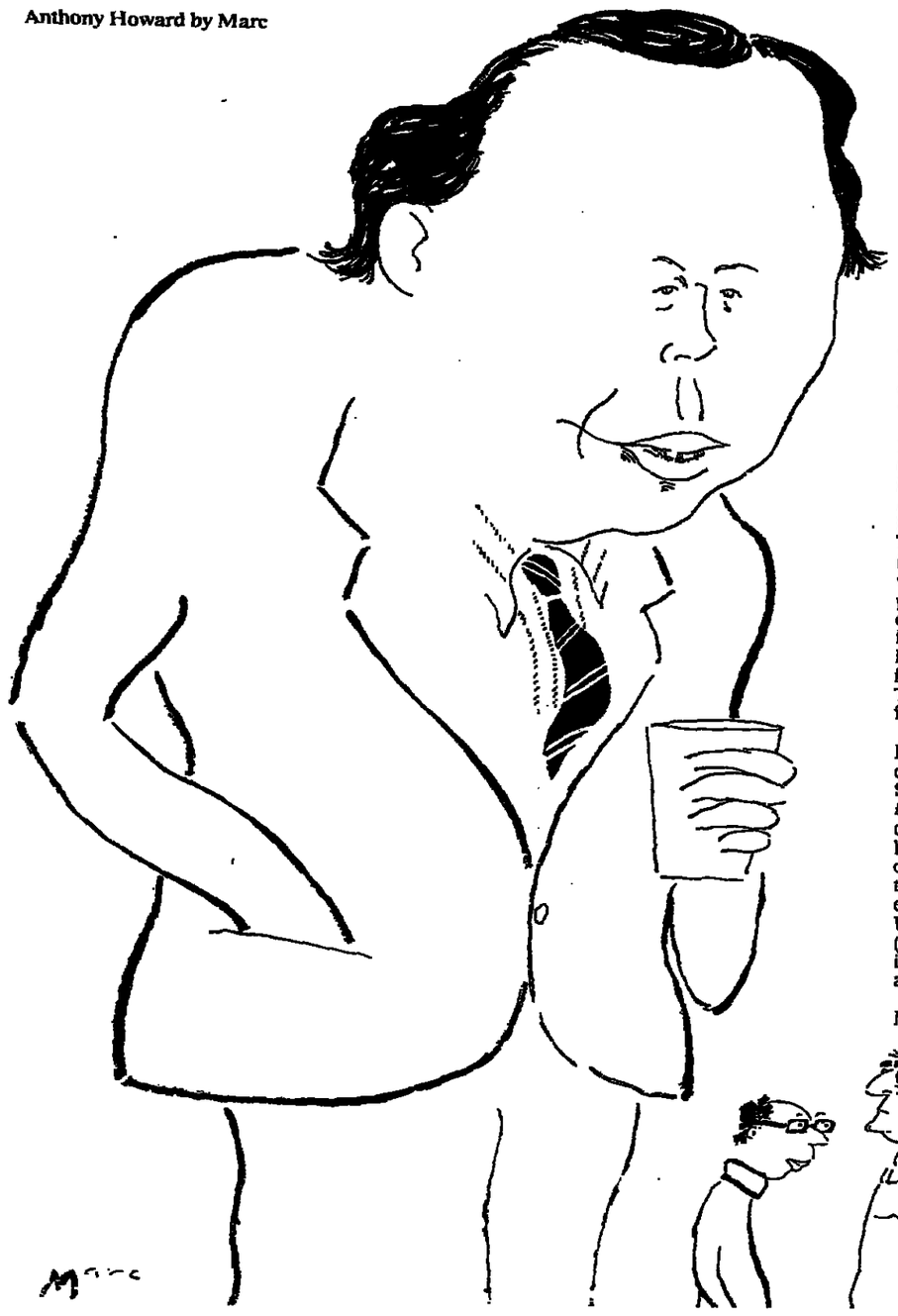
pedants, perfect — American compilation based on the neologism column in *American Speech*, a journal used by many dictionaries as a source, from 1941 to 1991.

There has also been a bumper crop of thesauri. They include the **Collins English Thesaurus**, in A-Z form, at £12.99; the similar **Oxford Thesaurus** at £14.95; the larger **Roget's 21st Century Thesaurus** which is now in alphabetical form and costs £15.99; and, most elaborately, two combined dictionary/thesauri: the **Collins English Dictionary and Thesaurus**, a bargain at £19.99, and **The Reader's Digest Oxford Wordfinder**, at £24.95. The latter two volumes include synonyms on the same page as definitions.

Finally, pride of place among literary reference books must be taken by Ian Ousby's new edition of **The Cambridge Guide to Literature in English**, good value at £22.95 and similar in price, scale and format to Margaret Drabble's edition of the Oxford Companion. Everybody should have one or other volume on their shelves. After so many wordy tomes, it will be pleasant to collapse into an easy chair with **The Penguin Dictionary of Jokes**, edited by Fred Metcalf. At £16.99 for a slim volume of 230 pages, this is hardly a bargain, but it would be a useful standby for the after-dinner speaker. Among the best performers was Thomas Mann. He is quoted thus: "A writer is somebody for whom writing is more difficult than it is for other people." How, then, does it happen that Mann takes up an entire shelf in my bookcase?

DANIEL JOHNSON

Anthony Howard by Marc



Corruscating caricaturists

CARTOONS

It seems only correct that a Tory should write glowingly of the family. In Peter Tory's **The Giles Family** *(Headline, £17.99)* not only the writing glows, but the drawings too and in particular the annual covers and Christmas cards in colour. Giles handles this brilliantly and in stunning detail; he even includes the white bits left by sunburn under shirtsleeves and dress-straps. One wishes all his work could have appeared like that.

Colour is also a bonus in Gary Larson's **The Far Side Gallery 4** *(Warner Books, £7.99)* and in the reissued B. Kliban's **Cat** *(Mandarin, £5.99)*. Even without colour Larson's other offering this year, **The Chickens are Restless** *(Warner Books, £5.99)*, is great value. Picture this: man in telephone booth atop Blueberry Hill, electric hand-tool lying in the foreground, "Norm? This is Mitch.... You were right — I found my drill." Music to my ears. Theirs is a weird and wonderfully flaky humour, very American.

Gerald Scarfe is very much in the English tradition of Gillray. He is a consummate caricaturist and **Scarfeface** *(Sinclair-Stevenson, £20)*, his retrospective examination of the human face, often reveals him at his coruscating best. His colour, though, too often leans towards the decorative and can be extraneous. Enoch Powell as the Union Jack has no need of colour (in more ways than one) and in this instance Scarfe doesn't provide any. Masterful.

The Collected and Recollected Marc *(4th Estate, £25)* is sumptuously produced in glorious black-and-white. The complexity of Mark Boxer is amusingly and movingly written about by family, friends and colleagues. His sister Rosemary Sayigh and friend Martin Amis remember him with particular poignancy.

The deceptively simple caricatures also speak volumes. Quite how that inimitable line in brush or pen can convey a gesture, a stance, so accurately is a marvel. Anthony Howard stands *just* like that and Lord Owen's walk is exactly right, down to the protruding bottom. His sinister portrait of Lord Lambton shows a balance of line and solid black which Aubrey Beardsley would have drooled over. True, there are one or two duds (Lord Tebbit and Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber) but the book is nonetheless a fascinating chronicle, from André François - like beginnings, of the flowering of a unique talent.

George Melly, Boxer's collaborator and a contributor to the book, also writes a foreword to Apicella's **Mouthfool: A Gourmet Collection of Culinary Cartoons** *(Grub Street, £5.99)* in which he elevates the latter to Marc's class. This somewhat over-eggs the pudding but there is no doubt that Apicella has a way with black and white. The jokes are captionless, witty and economically drawn, if a little long on spaghetti. In an Italian restaurateur that is, I suppose, excusable.

Alex is well served in his own collection, **Alex Calls the Shots** *(Headline, £5.99)* by Peattie and Taylor, but I do find strips monotonous in this format, outside their daily newspaper context. The same would apply to Steve Bell's **If...Bottoms Out** *(Mandarin, £5.99)* were the strips not relieved by his larger-format political cartoons from *The Guardian*'s leader page. These are always more pointed and outrageously anarchic — they would make for a more effective compilation in themselves.

Finally, a seasonal teaser. How do they choose **The Best of Matt** *(Chapmans, £3.99)* when the standard of his cartoon on the front page of *The Daily Telegraph* is so consistently high? Every day is "the best". I think we should be told.

PETER BROOKES

From Eisenstein to Ealing

FILM BOOKS

Film is reaching its centenary: the officially agreed date seems to be 1995. In the next 18 months one can expect a spate of retrospective celebrations, as publishers gamble on every family's urge to own at least one comprehensive film survey.

Two of the earliest of such compilations are already out: **Cinema: The First Hundred Years** by David Shipman *(Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £19.99)* and **Film: An International History of the Medium** by Robert Sklar *(Thames and Hudson, £32)*. Both are exceptionally well designed: laid out with the sort of care (half-tone illustrations, lively use of colour, rare and previously unpublished production stills) that one usually associates with books on fine art.

Sklar's volume is the better value, if one can afford it. The commentary is rich and intelligent — organised thematically, as opposed to Shipman's which opts, a bit ploddingly, for a year-by-year narrative.

Cambridge University Press has started a new series of monographs, mainly by American scholars. The latest batch of titles — on **Joseph Losey, Vincente Minnelli** and **D.W. Griffiths** *(£27.95 each hardcover, £9.95 paperback)* are scholastically competent, but short on passion and insight.

Charles Barr's classic study, **Ealing Studios**, which first appeared in the mid 1970s, has just been re-issued with an up-to-date "post-Thatcherite" epilogue *(Studio Vista, £16.99)*. My own politics are very different from Barr's; and yet it is impossible not to be drawn towards his patient, exploratory, human-centred social analysis. Barr sees the Ealing films — there were 95 in all in its 20-year life span (1939-1959) — as an unsurpassed commentary on English customs and manners over an important period of historical transition: that roughly covered by the loss of Britain's empire.

This may make the book sound a bit earnest. In fact, it is very witty, in the way that good expository prose is always witty. (So was Ealing, after all. I have just re-seen *Kind Hearts and Coronets*: as a satire on the upper classes from the inside, it equals the best passages of Powell and Waugh.)

There is fine scholarship, too, in a new series on Russian cinema from Routledge. The first two volumes, **Stalinism and Soviet Cinema** and **Eisenstein Revisited** *(£40 each)*, share the same general editor, Richard Taylor. The essays, from different hands, are of rather high quality, probing the secrets of Soviet film history with newly unleashed energy. One had known about Eisenstein, for instance, that he was a brave, even foolhardy artist. *Ivan the Terrible*, his final wartime masterpiece, with its coded references to Stalin, he called his "suicide note", and one can see why. But the director was cagey as well as Aesopian, and on the whole did not commit himself too much in writing.

His diaries, however, survive, and are finally being translated. Leonid Kozlov's essay on Eisenstein (in fact, in the Stalinism volume) uses these documents to bring out into the open the full extent of the film-maker's audacity: His project seems to have been nothing less than to convert Stalin to Christianity, as a prelude to getting him to repent of his crimes. He didn't succeed in either aim — more's the pity. His effort, however, remains one of the great heroic gestures by an artist. "Taboo is a falsehood," Eisenstein wrote (in the darkest days of the war). "If you do something *with your heart's blood* you can say *everything*."

There is nothing quite as sublime as this in the other volumes reviewed here. But it has been a good year for film scholarship in general. There have been three particularly penetrating close-up glimpses of film directors. Briefly, these are, first, the extended production diary kept by Bertrand Tavernier while filming his anti-drugs thriller, *L 627*, and published in the Faber collection, **Projections** *(£9.99)*; second, Philip French's learned career interview with Louis Malle, also published by Faber, **Malle on Malle** *(£14.99)*; finally, **This is Orson Welles** *(Harper Collins, £20)*, a transcript of the marvellous "lost" tapes of a conversation conducted with the great director by Peter Bogdanovich over a ten-year period from the mid-1960s. I imagine any cinephile would want to have these books on his shelves.

And for his (or her) stocking? Allow me to recommend Jonathan Ross's "alternative history of the cinema", **The Incredibly Strange Film Book** *(Simon & Schuster, £9.99)*, a connoisseur's guide to movie kitsch. Ross is an engaging writer, communicating enthusiasm and a lively sense of discovery.

For stay-at-home channel-zappers there is **The Radio Times Film and Video Guide** *(Hodder & Stoughton, £14.99)*. Its publishers claim this to be the most complete of the current directories on the market (18,000 entries). I hope it fits in the stocking.

MARK LE FANU

AARDVARK AARDWOLF ADDAX AFRICAN BUFFALO AFRICAN ELEPHANT AFRICAN WILD ASS AGOUTI ALEWIFE
AMERICAN BEAVER AMERICAN MANATEE AMERICAN MINK ANACONDA ANDEAN CONDOR
ARCHERFISH ARCTIC FOX ARCTIC TERN ASIATIC BLACK BEAR ASIATIC COBRA ASIATIC ELEPHANT ATLANTIC
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Michael Joseph

Recipe for confusion

Changed rules have brought frustration for shoppers, says Rodney Hobson



Since last January, a traveller returning from France has been allowed to bring back more than this for personal use

Staff in shops selling duty-free goods quail before the wrath of British holidaymakers. Almost a year after the European Community became a common market, confusion still reigns in the public mind over what goods, and in what quantities, can be transported across national boundaries.

Homeward-bound travellers, attempting to buy large quantities of alcohol, tobacco and perfume, complain: "It's all one market now. We can bring in what we like." The concept of duty paid and duty free is widely misunderstood.

The original idea was to abolish the duty-free status last January. Under new rules, people living in a country that imposes high duties on goods can buy unlimited quantities in another, low-duty EC state provided the purchases are for personal use and duty is paid.

However, intense lobbying from Britain, one of the high-duty countries, meant that duty-free shops such as those on ferries, aircraft and at airports were allowed to continue until June 30, 1999.

Duty-free allowances are, however, restricted in two ways. There is a quantity allowance on alcohol, perfume and tobacco. Travellers can buy 1 litre of spirits or 2 litres of fortified wine and 200 cigarettes. There is also a value allowance for expensive goods such as cameras and jewellery. This allowance is 45 ECUs, or £34 at present exchange rates, but will be doubled on January 1. The value allowance for goods bought outside the community will go up to £132.

If the rules cause confusion, then their enforcement can be chaotic. With customs abolished for intra-EC travel, the enforcement of duty-free restrictions has fallen on the shopkeeper. Duty-free shops that are strictly enforcing the rules require the shopper to produce his or her boarding card, on which purchases are stamped. This is confusing travellers who have misunderstood the distinction between duty free and duty paid.

Barry Goddard, the new secretary-general of the Duty Free Confederation, says: "The system is working reasonably well. It has been going for only 11 months and there are hiccups with any new system. We have to work on raising the understanding of passengers."

Realists among the owners of duty-free shops recognise that the days of tax avoidance are probably numbered. The Duty Free Confederation, a group of interested parties including producers, wholesalers and retailers, has appointed Mr Goddard in a part-time capacity. He is sanguine. "What happens in 1999 will very much depend on the circumstances. It depends on how the community develops.

"If new members come in such as the Nordic countries or nations in Eastern Europe, there may be a good case to retain the duty-free status in a broader community. On the other hand, if the present 12 members move closer together with a central bank and a common currency, it will be more difficult to argue for duty-frees."

Meanwhile, Mr Goddard still sees an important role for the duty-free brigade. "Duty-free goods are still an important factor in the funding of transport," he says. "The pricing structure splits the tax saved with half going to the customer and half to the operator. The benefits have been not just for those who buy, but for everyone.

"Air fares could go up 20 per cent or more if duty frees were abolished. Charter airlines in particular would have to put up air fares considerably."

Mr Goddard maintains that despite the coming of low-duty shopping in Calais and other French ports, purchases of duty-free goods show no signs of abating.

WHAT YOU CAN IMPORT

Duty free	Allowance
Spirits	1 litre (or 2 litres fortified wine)
Cigarettes	200 or equivalent tobacco
Luxury items	45 Ecus rising to 90 Ecus on Jan 1
From outside EC	45 Ecus rising to 175 Ecus on Jan 1
Duty paid	**Indicative limit ***
Beer	110 litres
Wine	90 litres
Spirits	10 litres
Fortified wine	30 litres
Cigarettes	800 plus 200 cigars

* Reasonable quantities for personal consumption



Barry Goddard: sanguine

Hypermarket shoppers are cheerfully breaking the law as they travel home in overloaded vehicles

Stockpile fever

Bus drivers and county council trading standards inspectors have taken on the role of customs officer. In the sometimes farcical world of free trading, legal limits on items liable for duty brought into this country are often enforced on the road rather than at the customs post. The European Community's moves to sweep away internal trade barriers and harmonise economies has led to a hybrid arrangement for goods carrying high duties — beer, wines, spirits, perfume and luxury items.

British buyers seeking to avoid the harsher British duties are getting two bites at the cherry: stocking up with low-duty beer in supermarkets in northern France and with duty-free spirits on the ferries.

Richard Jones, a librarian working in London, was among those who made the pre-Christmas hypermarket pilgrimage to Calais. He says: "The shoppers went berserk: they were climbing all over the crates. I saw lorry drivers piling crate after crate of lager into the cabin. They were paying French kids a few francs each to help them to load up."

On the way back, the ferry was packed. The boat rolled throughout the rough crossing but many passengers managed to demonstrate that at least some of the alcohol was for their personal consumption and were drunk when Dover hove into view.

Passengers on Mr Jones's coach were rationed by the driver to two crates of beer each to keep the vehicle within its weight limits — although the limits he imposed on their wine were more relaxed.

Such is the demand for transport to the ferry ports that the party had to make do with an old banger well past its retirement date. Two breakdowns on the way back failed to dampen the spirits of its occupants. The driver's cautious approach to weight limits was justified. In the absence of border controls on EC residents moving from one member state to another, the real control on importing duty-free and low-duty alcohol is the police and Kent County Council patrols on the A2 to London.

Drivers caught with overloaded vehicles face fines of up to £5,000. During December road blocks have been doing a roaring trade intercepting vehicles low on their axles.

A horsebox stopped near Canterbury was carrying a load of drink that was half a tonne above the limit. A van that had made the journey from Newcastle upon Tyne was 2,200 bottles of wine over its weight limit.

One council inspector said that some vehicles stopped were so packed they could have kept all-night parties going for months if the contents were really kept for personal consumption.

Council staff say that some heavily laden vehicles constitute a danger on the road because their excess weight affects roadholding, steering and braking. Yet the policy of enforcing regulations on dutiable goods through road traffic laws rather than customs checks is making little dent in the problem.

A purge in Kent in July resulted, for example, in a £600 fine on the driver of a vehicle that was 42 per cent overweight. The potential gains, like the potential fines are considerable. A modest estate car, judiciously filled, can produce a saving of £200 to £300, even after allowing for the full ferry fare.

Jim Hannah, director of publicity at Stena Sealink, confirms that his company's ferries have been packed every day since November.

After the summer rush, ferry companies have in the past been happy if heavy discounting has merely kept them ticking over during the first and last quarters of the year. Now a £10 return ticket fills their ships in the depths of winter.

Ferry companies traditionally have made about two-thirds of their money from the ferry ticket and a third from selling duty-free goods. Now that more people are travelling but spending more on alcohol ashore, the ferry operators have reconsidered where their strengths lie.

Mr Hannah says that while the shops in France can offer beer and wine at competitive prices, the ferries have a clear edge in duty-free sales of spirits and tobacco.

RODNEY HOBSON



Ferry companies are benefiting from the cross-Channel rush

The Number 1 Deluxe Scotch Whisky in Duty Free Worldwide



Source DFIC 1992

Manchester is now twice as big on duty free.



With twice as many terminals, Manchester confirms its position as a world class airport, serving 165 countries, across five continents. Now we've got twice as many duty free shops with an enviable and outstanding range of goods.

From camcorders and cameras to clothing and cosmetics. There's even a 20% duty free discount for transfer passengers.

Of course you can shop at any of the high street stores in the airport including Bally, Boots, Our Price, W.H.Smith, Thorntons, Tie Rack, Body Shop and Sock Shop. Swatch, Knickerbox and Sun & Co are all opening soon. All of which not only make Manchester a great place to fly through, but also a great place to shop.

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هكذا من الأصل

Soaraway successes

The high street's hold on quality shopping is being challenged, says Derek Harris



PETER TREVNOR

Bob Livingstone, of Allders International Europe: retailing has become an important source of income for airports

Airport shops are the biggest single conduit of duty and tax free sales worldwide, accounting for just over $6 billion worth of goods in 1992 or nearly 38 per cent of all duty and tax free sales.

The international duty and tax free industry was worth an estimated $16 billion last year, up from $15 billion in 1991, according to the database of *Duty-free News International*.

Europe accounts for sales of £5.3 billion. Airport shop sales in Europe last year accounted for £2.55 billion and UK airport shops for $730 million.

The introduction in European Community countries of vendor control, by which airport shops police the amount of duty-free goods bought by travellers, will have clipped sales this year. The International Duty Free Confederation estimates that sales of alcohol, tobacco and other items subject to excise duties have fallen by between 5 and 15 per cent.

Although the duty system for intra-EC travel is to be phased out in mid 1999, the airport shops will continue to supply duty-free goods for people travelling to other than EC destinations. Development of tax-free shopping can more than offset the vendor control effect. Control is likely to cost BAA, which operates seven British airports, £8 million over a full year. This has still merely slowed growth of duty-free sales, which were up 5 per cent in the first six months of this year, while retail income overall in the same period jumped 10 per cent because of an expansion of tax-free sales.

> Retail space at Glasgow airport is being quadrupled

The airport as a shopping mall to equal the high street is a concept BAA is exploiting. It has led to a combination of duty-free and tax-free outlets, which has produced sales ahead of targets.

Barry Gibson, BAA's group retail director, says: "The quality of shopping environment is at high street levels. This applies equally to the duty-free outlets located there, changing them from the old, almost hole-in-the-wall outlets to shops that offer individual, sophisticated and glamorous retailing."

The mall development has brought in many big high street names, including Harrods and Hamleys. A Mappin & Webb outlet at Heathrow notches up the biggest sales of Rolex watches of any of the chain's shops while Bally shoes has more sales per sq ft at Heathrow than anywhere else in Britain.

What has underpinned the appeal of the shopping environment has been BAA's drive on value for money for customers. Duty-free shops sell liquor at half high-street prices, and tax-free means without value added tax.

Careful targeting of international customers has paid off in tax-free goods. Scotch House with its tartans is a big draw for Americans, Aquascutum holds sway with the Japanese while Austin Reed in menswear and Thomas Pink in shirts do well with continental businessmen.

BAA has an investment programme of up to £90 million to double its retail space to about 1 million sq ft by 1996. The heaviest spending is at Heathrow and Gatwick although Stansted's retailing will grow in line with passenger volumes. Retail space at Glasgow airport is being quadrupled and the rebuilt Southampton airport includes upgraded retailing.

Retailing now produces for BAA more income than it gets from landing fees, previously its biggest single source of earnings.

BAA's increasing emphasis on retailing has led to a different business relationship with its main duty-free concessionaires, Allders International and Forte. With Allders, a management agreement gives it a longer tenure and there are incentives for both parties to gear up sales and profits.

Manchester Airport, which is owned by a consortium of local authorities, is developing its retailing. An Allders duty-free outlet has been included in its newly opened Terminal 2 in addition to Forte's duty-free store in Terminal 1.

David Stroud, commercial and retail market development manager, says the airport wants to develop its tax-free offers. In the new Terminal 2, Bally has opened and by Christmas there will be outlets of Tie Rack, Knickerbox and Swatch.

Prices at the airport are competitive — duty-free goods such as liquor and tobacco are 40 per cent or more cheaper than in the high street. Airside outlets sell tax-free items, from clothing to shoes, at least 15 per cent below high street prices. The airport is considering whether to launch a guarantee on competitive pricing similar to that with which BAA has been promoting its retailing operations.

Birmingham International, also owned by a group of regional local authorities, has duty-free shops in both its terminals accounting this year for 45 per cent of its retailing income.

In the main terminal, duty-free sales are expected to generate £4 million this year while in the new Eurohub terminal duty-free represents 60 per cent of all retailing activities, generating about £1.4 million in sales this year.

● *Duty-free News International is published bi-weekly by Raven Fox. Its annual subscription includes database research information. Enquiries, 071-735 0811.*

Spirits no longer dominate purchases at airports

Take-off for big sales of wine

Bob Livingstone, managing director of Allders International Europe, stands in Heathrow Airport's new Terminal 4 shopping mall and holds up a bottle of 1975 claret Château Petrus costing £275, *Derek Harris writes*.

The shop is the latest of the worldwide chain of duty free outlets operated by Allders International, part of a group that includes department-store operations. Allders has introduced the Wine Bin as an ancillary to its Terminal 4 duty-free outlet to sell a wide range of wines. Mr Livingstone says: "We are looking not only to expansion in the number of Allders outlets around the world but also to exploit more market opportunities such as with this wine initiative."

The terminal has two duty-free outlets and BAA, the airport operator, says total Terminal 4 wine sales have risen by 150 per cent. Allders wine sales have risen by almost 200 per cent since the Wine Bin opened. And in April, Berry Brothers & Rudd, the St James's wine merchant, will make its début at the airport with a Terminal 3 outlet. Allders also wants to extend the Wine Bin concept to some other selected airport outlets.

The theory is that boosting wine sales in this way is unlikely to be at the expense of current spirits sales because specialist wines appear largely to be attracting a different type of customer.

Wine sales have been low at airports until now, compared with high streets, where wine and spirits sales run at about the same level. At airports the wine proportion has been more like 2 per cent to 98 per cent spirits.

The duty and tax free sales arm of the Allders group, Allders International, is already the second largest operation of its kind in the world and is now looking at the fast-growing Asian market. Already, it has bridgeheads in Korea and Bali.

It is likely soon to bid for the duty-free perfume and cosmetics concession at Singapore airport, through which more than four million visitors passed in the first nine months of this year.

Allders is looking to expansion in promising areas as the threat looms of the EC's duty-free system being superseded in mid 1999 as tax harmonisation is achieved. Mr Livingstone says of the 1999 target: "It seems to be an optimistic goal. The question is whether harmonisation will have been fully achieved by then."

Mr Livingstone is optimistic about expansion opportunities in the Far East, especially in view of developments such as Hong Kong's new airport and the efforts being made by BAA to secure a consultancy involvement in planned airports in China. BAA has not only successfully exploited airport retailing in Britain, but is taking its expertise abroad in helping to develop America's Pittsburgh airport, to which several of BAA's British trading partners have been attracted.

The Allders' duty-free business originated in Ocean Trading, which in 1917 began opening on-board shops with leading shipping lines so that by the 1950s it was world leader for on-ship retailing concessions.

Airport shops were the logical extension as airline trade developed and Allders first opened a duty and tax shop at Heathrow in 1974.

Now it has nearly 100 duty and tax free stores allied to air traffic, 72 being at airports and about 24 off-airport.

Shops in the sky selling more

AIRLINES, in both scheduled and charter sectors, are progressively increasing sales of duty and tax free goods, *Derek Harris writes*. Worldwide, such airline sales last year reached nearly $1.4 billion, which is almost a tenth of all duty and tax free trade worldwide and nearly a 12 per cent increase on the previous year.

British Airways is one of the top duty-free revenue earners worldwide and number one in Europe, notching up almost $65 million in such sales during last year. The best of the American airlines brought in little more than a third of this revenue.



BA at any one time has £5 million of taxable goods flying on its planes. Last year, it sold 140 million cigarettes and 190,000 half-litre bottles of Scotch among many taxable items. Since vendor control, restricting travellers to officially approved buying levels, was introduced in January at airport shops in the EC, BA's inflight tobacco sales have risen by 40 per cent on European flights.

The effects of vendor control may not fully explain that sales jump. Aircraft price levels tend to be lower than those in airport shops, which is the plus for air travellers buying aboard aircraft just as the minus factor is that an airliner cannot carry the same range of goods as a big airport shop.

To try to break out of that range straitjacket, BA is considering brochure selling. A brochure range has virtually no boundaries and customers buy aboard — usually with a credit card — for the goods to be delivered to a specified destination.

BA has already got a mail-order operation on Concorde services and on Japanese flights a home delivery service is offered.

Charter airlines have traditionally achieved greater duty-free sales than scheduled services but Britain's Britannia Airways has just shown how this side of the business can be beefed up even further. Britannia's duty-free sales are up 20 per cent this year so far as a result of several sales initiatives.

Britannia is the world's biggest charter airline, part of the Canada-based Thomson Corporation's UK arm, Thomson Travel Group. Total inflight duty-free turnover last year at Britannia was £27.4 million.

It too is looking at the possibilities of catalogue selling, especially as 1999 approaches, ushering in the end of duty-free shopping within the EC. Like BA it sees the shopping-in-flight experience as something to be cultivated as an important source of revenue. Britannia's aim is to keep a pricing edge on many items compared with ground-based retailing.

West End shopping that's crowd-free, trouble-free and tax-free. The new Terminal 4.



It's a completely new departure in airport shopping. Twenty two of London's finest stores offering British classics and exclusive international brands, tax-free. Seven bars and restaurants serving everything from champagne and oysters to real ale and pub food. Plus a choice of duty-free shops offering over 300 wines and spirits. All prices are backed by the BAA Value Guarantee and you can pay with any major currency or credit card or use the bureaux de change. For quality and value, there's nowhere in the world like it.

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Terminal 4 Heathrow B·A·A

BAA VALUE GUARANTEE TAX-FREE SHOPPING

At your ultimate destination, you may be liable to various taxes, including duty. The BAA Value Guarantee does not affect your statutory rights.

Undisclosed principal can sue on contract

Siu and Another v Eastern Insurance Co Ltd

Before Lord Templeman, Lord Mustill, Lord Woolf, Lord Lloyd of Berwick and Sir Thomas Eichelbaum

[Judgment December 9]

An undisclosed principal could sue on an insurance contract made by an agent within his actual authority; the fact that the principal's name had not been inserted in the contract did not make the policy unlawful by virtue of section 2 of the Life Assurance Act 1774.

The Privy Council so held in allowing an appeal by the plaintiffs, Siu Yin Kwan, administratrix of the estate of Chan Ying Lung, and Wang Chang Seu Ying, administratrix of the estate of Sae Heng Hai, alias Wang Poa Tsing, from the order of the Court of Appeal of Hong Kong upholding, by a majority, the decision of Mr Justice Keith that the plaintiffs had no rights under section 2(1) of the Third Parties (Rights Against Insurers) Ordinance (Cap 273).

In 1983 the Barquentine Osprey was hit by a typhoon and several members of the crew, who had been employed by Axelson Co Ltd, lost their lives.

The plaintiffs, as administratrix of two of the deceased, had obtained a judgment for damages for negligence against Axelson, but the company had been wound up and the judgments were never satisfied.

In 1988 they had commenced the current proceedings against Axelson's insurers, Eastern Insurance Co Ltd, claiming payment under section 2(1) of the Ordinance.

Section 2(1) provided that where a company was insured against liabilities to third parties, then "in the event of a winding-up order being made, ... if ... any such liability ... is incurred by the insured, his rights against the insurer under the contract in respect of the liability shall ... be transferred to and vest in the third party to whom the liability was so incurred."

Mr Christopher Clarke, QC, for the plaintiffs; Mr R. Neville Thomas, QC and Mr Mohan Bharwaney, of the Hong Kong Bar, for Eastern.

LORD LLOYD said that by their defence, Eastern said, first, that the persons named as insured were Richstone Industries Ltd (Axelson's shipping agents who had obtained the appropriate cover for the crew) and not Axelson. There was nothing in the proposal to indicate that Richstone were acting as agents for Axelson.

Second, even if Axelson had been entitled to claim under the policy as undisclosed principals, the policy had been unlawful by virtue of section 2 of the 1774 Act, which provided:

"... it shall not be lawful to make any policy ... on the life ... of any person ... or other event or events, without inserting in such policy ... the person or persons' name or names interested therein, or for whose use, benefit, or on whose accounts such policy is so made or underwrote."

On the judge's findings of fact, their Lordships had to approach the case on the basis that the plaintiffs could only succeed if they could show that Axelson were entitled to enforce the policy as undisclosed, as distinct from unnamed, principals.

The main features of the law relating to an undisclosed principal could be summarised as follows:

1 An undisclosed principal could sue and be sued on a contract made by an agent on his behalf, acting within the scope of his actual authority.

2 In entering into the contract, the agent had to intend to act on the principal's behalf.

3 The agent of an undisclosed principal could also sue and be sued on the contract.

4 Any defence which the third party might have against the agent was available against his principal.

5 The terms of the contract might, expressly or by implication, exclude the principal's right to sue, and his liability to be sued. The contract itself, or the circumstances surrounding the contract, might show that the agent was the true and only principal.

It was generally accepted that, while the development of that branch of the law might have been anomalous, since it ran counter to fundamental principles of privity of contract, it was justified on the ground of commercial convenience.

The present case was concerned with the fifth of the features noted above. Since the contract in the present case was an ordinary commercial contract, Axelson were entitled to sue as undisclosed principal unless Richstone should have realised that Eastern were unwilling to contract with anyone other than themselves.

However, the language of the proposal form did not exclude the right of Axelson to sue as undisclosed principal. The proposal form had been directed to Richstone as proposer, but nowhere did it state, or imply, that Richstone might not propose insurance on behalf of others.

Even if Richstone had been named as employer, expressly or by implication, it would not necessarily have prevented Axelson intervening to show that they were the true principals.

In *Fred Drughorn Ltd v Rederiaktiebolaget Transatlantic* ([1919] AC 203) a charterparty was signed on behalf of an individual who was named as the charterer. It was held by the House of Lords that that was not inconsistent with the named charterer having entered into the charterparty as agent for his employer. Accordingly, the employer was entitled to intervene as undisclosed principal and enforce the charterparty against the owners. The same reasoning would have applied in the present case if Richstone had been named as employer.

There was therefore nothing in the terms of the proposal form, or the policy, which expressly or by implication excluded Axelson's right to sue as undisclosed principal.

Mr Thomas had then submitted that a contract of insurance was a contract of a special kind: it was a personal contract, which of its nature was inconsistent with intervention by an undisclosed principal.

The argument was that the doctrine of undisclosed principal bore some resemblance to the assignment of contractual rights. If the contract was one that could not be assigned, because it was personal by nature, neither should it be capable of being enforced by an undisclosed principal.

An employer's liability policy, it was argued, was a contract of personal indemnity. It could not be assigned. It followed that it could not be made on behalf of an undisclosed principal. The insurer was always entitled to know of the existence and identity of the assured.

The short answer to that argument lay in a finding by the judge that the actual identity of the employer was a matter of indifference and was not material to the risk. In the light of that finding it was impossible for Eastern to contend that it was a personal contract of the kind that excluded the rights of an undisclosed principal.

Although that was sufficient to dispose of the argument, it would not be right to leave the matter there. Their Lordships accepted that there was a class of personal contract where the burden could not be performed vicariously.

The example often given was a contract to paint a portrait. Such a contract could not be enforced by an undisclosed principal since his intervention in such a case would be a breach of the very contract in which he sought to intervene.

But their Lordships were unwilling to accept that a contract of indemnity insurance was a personal contract in that sense.

No case had been cited to their Lordships which decided, or even suggested, that a contract of insurance was an exception to the general rule that an undisclosed principal might sue on a contract made by an agent within his actual authority.

The second main defence, based on section 2 of the 1774 Act, was that the policy was payable on the happening of an event, within the meaning of section 2, that event being the insured's liability to pay compensation in respect of injury to his employees.

Since the name of the person interested, that was to say Axelson, was not inserted in the policy, the insurance was unlawful and void.

The meaning of section 2 of the Act was considered by the Court of Appeal in *Mark Rowlands Ltd v Berni Inns Ltd* ([1986] QB 211), a case of fire insurance. The plaintiff was the freeholder of premises. The defendant was tenant of the basement.

The question was whether the policy taken out by the plaintiff enured for the benefit of the defendant, although his name did not appear in the policy. It was held that the policy did not infringe section 2, since the Act was not intended to apply to indemnity insurance.

On the other hand in *In re King (dec'd)* ([1963] Ch 459, 485) Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, said: "You must remember that when you take out a policy of fire insurance of a building (as distinct from goods), you must insert in the policy the names of all the persons interested therein, or for whose use or benefit it is made. No person can recover thereon unless he is named therein ... That is clear from the Life Assurance Act 1774 ..."

Faced with the conflict of authority their Lordships preferred the decision of the Court of Appeal in the former case. In *In re King* the point was not argued. The observation of Lord Denning was *obiter* and was not reflected in the judgments of the other two members of the court.

The words "event or events" in section 2, while apt to describe the loss of the vessel, were hardly apt to describe Axelson's liability arising under the Employers Compensation Ordinance (Cap 282), or at common law, as a consequence of the loss of the vessel.

Further, section 2 had to take colour from the short title and preamble to section 1. By no stretch of the imagination could indemnity insurance be described as "a mischievous kind of gaming". Their Lordships were entitled to give section 2 a meaning which corresponded with the obvious legislative intent.

Solicitors: Philip Conway Thomas; Macfarlanes.

Settlement has no effect on other joint libel loser

Watts v Aldington
Tolstoy v Aldington

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Steyn and Lord Justice Simon Brown

[Judgment December 15]

A settlement agreement reached by the winner of a defamation case with one of two losers did not constitute a release but merely an agreement by the defamed party not to sue on the remainder of the judgment and did not discharge the other loser from liability.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in dismissing appeals brought by Nigel Watts and Count Nikolai Tolstoy Miloslavsky against the decision of Mr Justice Morritt on May 22, 1992 that a settlement agreement between Lord Aldington and Mr Watts of £10,000 did not constitute a release of the liability of Mr Watts or Count Tolstoy for a judgment debt of £1,500,000.

Mr Jon R. Turner for Mr Watts; Count Tolstoy in person; Miss Amanda Michaels for Count Tolstoy's trustee in bankruptcy; Mr Charles Gray, QC and Mr William Trower for Lord Aldington.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that in March 1987 Lord Aldington issued a writ claiming damages for libel against Mr Watts and Count Tolstoy arising out of the publication of a pamphlet dealing with the repatriation of Russian troops to the Soviet Union after VE Day. On the verdict of the jury, judgment was entered against Mr Watts and Count Tolstoy for £1,500,000.

On March 30, 1991 a settlement was agreed between Lord Aldington and Mr Watts in which it was stated, *inter alia*, that the payment of £10,000 was accepted in full and final settlement of the judgment provided other conditions were kept.

In May 1991, Lord Aldington, with the consent of Mr Watts, sent Count Tolstoy a copy of the settlement agreement.

In September 1991 Mr Watts brought proceedings against Lord Aldington seeking a declaration that the settlement agreement constituted a release by Lord Aldington of all rights which Lord Aldington had against either Mr Watts or Count Tolstoy arising out of the defamation case.

In November 1991, Count Tolstoy's trustee in bankruptcy brought a claim for contribution against Mr Watts. On March 24, Count Tolstoy issued an application seeking an order to direct his trustee in bankruptcy to reject Lord Aldington's proof of the judgment debt.

All those matters came on before Mr Justice Morritt who found that the settlement agreement did not constitute a release of Mr Watts but was merely an agreement not to sue him and that neither Count Tolstoy nor his trustee in bankruptcy had been discharged by it.

In his Lordship's judgment, it was impossible to conclude that looking at the matter objectively Lord Aldington and Mr Watts intended that Count Tolstoy was to be forthwith discharged from all further liability.

Mr Turner suggested that the right enquiry was whether the parties intended that Count Tolstoy should continue to have the right to have recourse to Mr Watts.

With respect to that suggestion, that seemed to his Lordship to give the wrong emphasis to any possible contribution proceedings.

The settlement was concerned with the rights which Lord Aldington had against Mr Watts. Although it was legitimate to imply into such an agreement a term as to the reservation of rights against Count Tolstoy, there was no basis for making any implication regarding rights of contribution.

His Lordship considered that the settlement agreement was plainly subject to an implied term that Lord Aldington's rights against Count Tolstoy would be reserved.

Any other result would offend common sense.

The appeals would be dismissed.

Lord Justice Steyn and Lord Justice Simon Brown delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: David Price & Co; Bretherton Price & Elgoods, Cheltenham: Allen & Overy.

Jurisdiction to strike out

In re Port (a Bankrupt) (No 516 of 1987)
Port v Auger

Before Mr Justice Harman

[Judgment November 25]

An "ordinary application" was not a "pleading" covered by Order 18, rule 19 of the Rules of the Supreme Court and the court could use only its inherent jurisdiction in order to strike out an application which had no basis at all.

Mr Justice Harman so held in the Chancery Division on the ordinary application dated February 3, 1993 made by Mr George Auger, as trustee of the bankrupt's estate, to strike out what was wrongly described as an "originating application", dated December 23, 1992, made by Mr Martin Port, a son of the bankrupt, who sought, *inter alia*, certain declarations as to two agreements entered into by the trustee in bankruptcy, whereby he had sold property and shares, allegedly not forming part of the bankrupt's estate.

Mr Geoffrey Vos, QC, for Mr Auger; Mr Alan Newman, QC and Mr David Wilby for Mr Martin Port.

MR JUSTICE HARMAN said that by rule 7(2) of the Insolvency Rules (SI 1986 No 1925) any application other than an "originating application", which was defined as an application which was "not in pending proceedings", should be termed an "ordinary application".

The word "application" had always seemed to his Lordship to be one of the least suitable that could have been chosen by the Insolvency Rules Committee, since applications were of a multitudinous character and uncertain in definition, in that, besides being properly used in ordinary language to say, when counsel rose to address the court, that he was making an application to the judge, it could also properly be used when the application had been launched by motion, by petition, or in an action begun by writ.

The document referred to in the trustee's ordinary application [Mr Martin Port's application] was described as an "originating application" which it clearly was not; it was an "ordinary application" but as such it was quite extraordinary.

It was not made by the bankrupt, it sought declarations under the general law, it referred to a trust deed which would make one assume that persons were interested in the question other than the applicant and the respondent trustee, and it raised an entirely future question. Nothing could be less suitable for interlocutory decision on an ordinary application in a pending bankruptcy.

Order 18, rule 19 of the Rules of the Supreme Court provided that the court might "at any stage ... order to be struck out or amended any pleading or the indorsement of any writ in the action, or anything in any pleading or in the indorsement ..." on four classic grounds all of which "most of us could recite in our sleep".

The rule therefore referred to "pleadings" and it was clear beyond peradventure that an ordinary application, indeed any ordinary summons or motion, was not a "pleading". Nor was an ordinary application a writ, so the provision as to endorsements equally could not conceivably apply.

The ground most frequently argued was whether "the pleading or indorsement" disclosed "no reasonable cause of action" and plainly that part of the rule was directed to initiating proceedings, which were supposed to set out why the court was being troubled, and what rights were being asserted.

Sub-rule (3) provided that the rule should apply to an originating summons or a petition as if it were "a pleading", although they were classically defined as not being pleadings.

It was notable that the rule did not apply to an originating motion, such as one seeking to impugn a trade-mark.

The rule had no application to the ordinary interlocutory processes of summonses, motions or ordinary applications under the Insolvency Rules.

Mr Vos pointed out that Note 18/19/18 (*The Supreme Court Practice 1993* (p346)) referred to the power of the court to stay or dismiss an action under its inherent jurisdiction on the ground that it was obviously frivolous or vexatious.

Mr Martin Port's affidavit did not claim in any way an interest in the bankrupt's estate; he was not a creditor or even a contingent creditor. There was no evidence of any wrongdoing by the trustee in bankruptcy and accordingly Mr Port's application would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Wilde Sapte; Coates & Co, Leeds.

Power to consider unfair dismissal complaint after time

Marley (UK) Ltd and Another v Anderson

Before Mr Justice Mummery, Mrs M. L. Boyle and Mr J. A. Scouller

[Judgment December 6]

Where an employee, who had made a complaint of unfair dismissal more than three months after the termination of his employment after learning of the matters on which he based the complaint, subsequently learnt of other matters and amended his complaint, the industrial tribunal, while accepting that it had not been reasonably practicable for the employee to present his complaint on the first ground within the three months but refusing to entertain the complaint on that ground, was not precluded from concluding that it had jurisdiction pursuant to section 67(2) of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 to consider the complaint based on the second ground.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when (i) dismissing an appeal by the employers, Marley (UK) Ltd and Marley Floors Ltd, from the decision of an Ashford industrial tribunal on June 18, 1993, that it had jurisdiction to consider a complaint of unfair dismissal by the employee, Mr Stuart John Anderson, based on matters he first learnt in October 1992; and (ii) allowing a cross-appeal by the employee from the industrial tribunal's decision that it did not have jurisdiction to consider the merits of his claim based on matters he first learnt in March 1992.

Mr David Richardson for the employers; Mr Nicholas Fairweather, solicitor, for the employee.

MR JUSTICE MUMMERY said that on November 15, 1991, the employee was given notice of redundancy. On April 23, 1992, over two months after the period of three months allowed by section 67(2) of the 1978 Act had expired, he presented a complaint of unfair dismissal.

According to the complaint, the employee had first learnt on about March 18, 1992, of the matters which gave him grounds for believing that he had been dismissed unfairly and not by reason of redundancy (the first crucial fact).

On November 9, 1992, the originating application was amended to add a new complaint that on October 24 the employee had seen for the first time a memorandum which he believed indicated that his dismissal might have been connected with criticism of his work (the second crucial fact).

Section 67(2) required the industrial tribunal to ask two questions: 1 Was it satisfied that it was not "reasonably practicable" for the complaint to be presented before the end of the period of three months beginning with the effective date of termination?

2 If so, was the complaint presented to the tribunal within such further period as the tribunal considered reasonable?

In *Machine Tool Industry Research Association v Simpson* ([1988] ICR 558) the Court of Appeal had held that it was not reasonably practicable for an employee to present a complaint based on facts unknown to him, but which, on becoming known to him, were crucial in changing his subjective state of mind from not believing he had grounds for a complaint to having a reasonable and genuine belief that he had.

The employers submitted that the reasonableness of the employee's belief had to be established, not at the date he was considering whether to present a complaint, but at the date of the hearing.

The question involved an investigation into the state of the employee's knowledge at the time he was considering making a complaint and into his subjective beliefs. It did not involve an enquiry into the truth of the facts which led him to form his belief. Accordingly, the industrial tribunal was correct to reject the employers' contention.

The employers attacked the tribunal's decision that it was not reasonably practicable for the employee's complaint based on the second crucial fact to be presented before the end of the period of three months.

It was said that the employee's change of belief had been effected by the first crucial fact. Acting on that, he had presented his complaint, although the tribunal had gone on to hold that he had not done so within a reasonable period thereafter.

The argument was that, on the true interpretation of section 67(2), as soon as an employee believed that he had grounds for making a complaint of unfair dismissal, he had to present his complaint within such further period as the tribunal considered reasonable. If he failed to do so, the later discovery by him of other grounds for presenting a complaint did not give him a second bite at the cherry.

That submission was unsound, and rested on a misreading of the judgment of Lord Justice Purchas in the *Machine Tool* case (at p564-565). That was not a case where the employee learnt after the end of the three-month period of yet further facts giving her reasonable grounds to believe that she had a complaint of unfair dismissal.

In the view of the appeal tribunal, the industrial tribunal was entitled to regard the second crucial fact as a further ground for presenting a complaint and to conclude that it was not reasonably practicable to present a complaint on that ground before the end of the three-month period.

The employee's cross-appeal challenged the decision of the industrial tribunal that his complaint based on the first crucial fact was not presented within such further period as it considered reasonable.

The industrial tribunal appeared to have thought that it was constrained by *James W. Cook Ltd v Tipper* ([1990] ICR 716) to regard delay of four weeks or more as longer than a reasonable period. That was an error of law which led the tribunal to concentrate on the length of the delay to the exclusion of a proper consideration of all the relevant circumstances in which the delay occurred.

Accordingly, that matter would be remitted for reconsideration by the industrial tribunal.

Solicitors: Argles & Court, Maidstone; Harman & Harman, Canterbury.

Defence not available in summary case

Cohen and Others v Baram

Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Mann and Lord Justice Hirst

[Judgment November 24]

A defendant in summary Order 14 proceedings arising out of an arbitration award could not raise issues concerning the propriety of the arbitrators' costs award by way of a defence.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing Mr David Baram's appeal against the dismissal by Mr Graham Hamilton, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, of his appeal against the refusal of Master Prebble to give him leave to defend an action brought by Mr Arnold Cohen and four others, all trustees of the Federation of Synagogues.

Mr Jack Denbin for Mr Baram; Mr Stephen Shaw for the trustees.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said that the appeal centered entirely on an order for costs made by the Beth Din of the Federation of Synagogues, London, in an arbitration between two claimants, Mr Landau and Mr Adler, and Mr Baram. The parties to the arbitration had submitted to the jurisdiction of the Beth Din by a written agreement under the Arbitration Acts 1950 and 1979 whereby they agreed, *inter alia*, that the award of the Beth Din "shall be final and binding and to pay such costs as the Beth Din may determine".

It was common ground that it was an established principle of Jewish law that in a Beth Din arbitration each party should bear its own legal costs. The Beth Din found for Mr Baram and ordered that its costs, the arbitrators' fees and expenses, should be divided equally with each side paying £2,000.

Mr Baram declined to pay. The trustees issued a writ and were given summary judgment under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court by the Master which was upheld by the judge. Mr Baram raised a number of grounds which he contended entitled him to leave to defend.

The first was the trustees' status. His Lordship was satisfied that the trustees were the correct plaintiffs. The arbitration took place under their aegis and the expenses were incurred by them. The arbitrators were employees of the Federation and would not have been appropriate plaintiffs.

The second was the propriety of the costs award. Mr Baram contended, *inter alia*, that the decision on costs was not a judicial exercise of discretion because the arbitrators failed to apply the general rule that costs follow the event and failed to give reasons for departing from that rule.

The trustees said that such matters could not be raised by way of defence because by Order 73, rule 2 of the Rules of the Supreme Court the only available challenge was under the Arbitration Acts procedures.

Mr Baram disputed that and said that in any event he was precluded on religious grounds from making any application to the court.

His Lordship, while fully respecting his religious objections to litigating in a secular court, found that they were entirely a matter for his own conscience and could not be relied upon to exonerate him from compliance with the general law. Order 73 and the Arbitration Acts thus applied unimpaired.

Section 1 of the Arbitration Act 1979, as interpreted by the Court of Appeal in *Bleeren v Percy Trentham Ltd* ([1990] 42 EG 133) and *King v McKenna Ltd* ([1991] 2QB 481) laid down that any challenge to an award of costs by arbitrators, on the grounds of misconduct or misapplication of some general principle of Jewish law, had to be brought by way of an application for leave to appeal under the 1979 Act by the procedure in Order 73.

No such application having been made, the arbitrators' award stood as a final, valid and unassailable award and Mr Baram was, in his Lordship's judgment, precluded from raising those issues by way of defence.

Lord Justice Dillon and Lord Justice Mann agreed.

Solicitors: Davenport Lyons; Franks Charlesly & Co.

European Law Report — Luxembourg

Bridging pension difference lawful

Birds Eye Walls Ltd v Roberts

Case C-132/92

Before G. F. Mancini, President of the Second Chamber and Judges F. A. Schockweiler and J. L. Murray

Advocate General W. Van Gerven (Opinion July 15)

[Judgment November 9]

A difference between the amount of a bridging pension paid to women and men between the ages of 60 and 65 which was based on an objective difference between their respective financial situations could not be considered discriminatory.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held in replying to questions submitted to it by the Court of Appeal of England and Wales for a preliminary ruling pursuant to article 177 of the EEC Treaty.

A dispute had arisen between Mrs Roberts and her former employer, Birds Eye Walls Ltd, concerning the amount of the bridging pension paid to Mrs Roberts under Unilver's occupational pension scheme, to which she had been affiliated before taking early retirement in 1987 at the age of 57 on the ground of ill health.

The bridging pension, financed in its entirety by the employer, constituted an *ex gratia* payment to employees who were compelled on the ground of ill health to take early retirement before reaching the statutory retirement age which, in the United Kingdom, was 60 for women and 65 for men.

The additional payment in question was therefore made where the employee was not yet entitled to payment of the state pension and was entitled to the occupational pension only at a reduced rate on the basis of the number of years still to be completed until the statutory retirement age.

The method of calculating the bridging pension, which was based on a number of factors such as the employee's final rate of pay, the number of years of service he would have completed until age of 60 or 65 and the state and occupational pensions to which he would be entitled, meant that the amount paid to a particular individual varied according to the changes occuring in that person's financial position with the passage of time.

Thus, from the age of 60 the amount of the bridging pension paid to a woman was reduced on the ground that she was in receipt of the state pension, while the bridging pension paid to a man was not reduced until five years later, when he in turn became entitled to the state pension.

Mrs Roberts challenged that method od calculation which, in the case of persons aged between 60 and 65, entailed payment to a woman of a smaller bridging pension that that paid to a man whose position was comparable in all other respects. Mrs Roberts claimed that the bridging pension constituted pay within the meaning of article 119 of the Treaty and that, accordingly a difference of that kind was contrary to the principle of equal treatment laid down by that provision.

The Court of Appeal stayed the proceedings and referred three questions to the Court of Justice of the European Communities for a preliminary ruling.

In its judgment the European Court held as follows:

Discrimination

It was common ground that the bridging pension fell within the concept of pay within the meaning of the second paragraph of article 119 of the Treaty, as defined by the Court, which comprised any other consideration, whether in cash or in kind, whether immediate or future, providing that the worker received it, albeit indirectly, in respect of his employment from his employer: see Case C-262/88 *Barber v Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance Group* (*The Times* May 18, 1990; [1990] ECR 1989).

It was to be noted that the principle of equal treatment laid down by article 119 of the Treaty, like the general principle of non-discrimination which it embodied in a specific form, presupposed that the men and women to whom it applied were in identical situations.

However, that would not appear to be so where the deferred payment which an employer made to those of his employees who were compelled to take early retirement on the ground of ill health was regarded as a supplement to the financial resources of the man or woman concerned.

It followed clearly from the mechanism for calculating the bridging pension that the assessment of the amount thereof was not frozen at a particular moment but necessarily varied on account of changes occurring in the financial position of the man or woman concerned with the passage of time.

Accordingly, although until the age of 60 the financial position of a woman taking early retirement on the ground of ill health was comparable to that of a man in the same situation, neither of them as yet entitled to payment of the state pension, that was no longer the case between the ages of 60 and 65 since that was when women, unlike men, started drawing that pension.

That difference as regards the objective premise, which necessarily entailed that the amount of the bridging pension was not the same for men and women, could not be considered discriminatory.

Furthermore, given the purpose of the bridging pension, to maintain the amount for women at the same level as that which obtained before they received the state pension would give rise to unequal treatment to the detriment of men who did not receive the state pension until the age of 65.

It had therefore to be held that the mechanism for calculating the bridging pension was neutral, which confirmed the absence of any discrimination.

Widow's pension

Question 2 related to female employees who, as married women, had exercised the option available to them under English law of paying pension contributions at a reduced rate, entitling them to a reduced state pension only, or not entitling them to a pension as in the case of Mrs Roberts.

However, Mrs Roberts drew a widow's pension equal in amount to a full retirement pension. Question 3 was prompted by that factor and the effect which it might have on the answers to questions 1 and 2.

It should be noted, in that regard, that the option of paying lower contributions towards their state pensions was a manner in which married women, who in so doing undoubtedly derived financial benefit, had freedom of choice.

It would be irrational to disregard that factor and to calculate the bridging pension by reference to the amount of the state pension which the woman concerned actually received.

As the Advocate General had pointed out in his opinion, to compel a company to make up for the loss of state pension arising directly from the woman's decision to pay contributions at a reduced rate would amount to conferring an unfair advantage on married women taking early retirement who had opted to pay contributions at that rate, in relation to persons who had no such choice and had always had to pay contributions at the full rate, namely men and unmarried women, as well as to married women who had not exercised the option available to them.

Article 119 could not therefore be intepreted in such a way as to create unequal treatment whereby some women would gain a twofold benefit, namely by paying contributions at a reduced rate and receiving a bridging pension that would compensate for the corresponding reduction in the state pension, in relation to other persons whose position was comparable in every other respect.

The same reasoning applied *a fortiori* where, instead of a state pension, the woman concerned drew a widow's pension equal in amount to a full state pension.

On those grounds, the Court (Second Chamber) ruled:

1 It was not contrary to article 119 of the EEC Treaty, when calculating the amount of a bridging pension which was paid by an employer to male and female employees who had taken early retirement on the ground of ill health and which was intended to compensate, in particular, for loss of income resulting from the fact that they had not yet reached the age required for payment of the state pension, to take account of the amount of state pension which they would subsequently receive and to reduce the amount of the bridging pension accordingly, even though, in the case of men and women aged between 60 and 65, the result was that a female ex-employee received a smaller bridging pension that that paid to her male counterpart, the difference being equal to the amount of the state pension to which she was entitled as from the age of 60 in respect of the periods of service completed with that employer.

2 It was not contrary to article 119 of the EEC Treaty, when calculating the bridging pension to take account of the full state pension which a married woman would have received if she had not opted in favour of paying contributions at a reduced rate, entitling her to a reduced pension only or not entitling her to a pension, or of the widow's pension which might be drawn by the woman concerned and which was equivalent to a full state pension.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 071-782 7344

COMPANY NOTICES

CANADIAN PACIFIC LIMITED
At a meeting of the Board of Directors held today, the following dividends were declared:
ORDINARY SHARES
A final quarterly dividend of eight cents (8c) Canadian per share on the outstanding Ordinary Shares in respect of the year 1993, payable on January 28, 1994, to holders of record at the close of business on December 24, 1993

PREFERENCE SHARES
A final semi-annual dividend of $0.05 per Canadian Dollar Preference Share and 2½ pence per Sterling Preference Share on the outstanding Preference Shares in respect of the year 1993, payable on January 28, 1994, to holders of record at the close of business on December 24, 1993.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
D.J. DEEGAN
VICE-PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY
MONTREAL, December 15, 1993.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
No. 008904 of 1993
IN THE MATTER OF PREMIER HEALTH GROUP Plc
and
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 17th November 1993 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £21,036,039.288 to £4,232,000 and the cancellation of the share premium account of the above-named Company and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 7th December 1993.
Dated this 13th day of December 1993.
HERBERT SMITH, Exchange House, Exchange Square, Primrose Street, London EC2A 2HS
Tel: 071-374-8000
Ref: 72/C262
Solicitors for the above-named Company

Notice of Appointment of Administrative Receiver
Kilways Nurseries Limited
Registered number: 2046867
Trading Names: Kelways
Nature of business: Plant nursery
Type classification: 53
Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 22 November 1993
Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Petra Limited - Malcolm Cohen and Raymond Housing Administrative Receiver/Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos) 0626/01 and 2252/011
Address: Star Hayward, 8 Baker Street, London, W1M 1DA

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
Alan Paine Limited
Registered number: 514896
Nature of business: Knitwear Manufacturer
Trade classification: 09
Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 6 December 1993
Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Midland Bank
Names of administrative receivers: Alan John Barrell, Office holder no 1090, Thames Court, 1 Victoria Street, Windsor SL4 1NB & Derek Anthony Norwell, Office holder No. 798, Haywood House, Dumfries Place, Cardiff CF1 4BA

Notice of Appointment of Liquidator
Voluntary Winding Up
Pursuant to Section 109 of the Insolvency Act 1986
Company Number: 2569898
Name of company: The Typesetting Business Limited
Nature of business: Typesetters
Address of registered office: Trevion House, 186-192 High Road, Ilford, Essex, IG1 1JQ
Type of Liquidation: Voluntary
Liquidator(s): Richard Andrew Segal, A Segal & Co, Trevion House, 186-192 High Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 1JQ
Office Holder Nos: 009688
Date of appointment: 14 December 1993
By whom appointed: The Members & Creditors
Date: 15 December 1993

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE ALL YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS PLEASE CALL DEBRA GYNN
TEL: 071-782 7344 or FAX: 071-481 9313

هكذا من الأصل

Wet start to world championship

Island in the sun gives players stormy reception

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN JAMAICA

THE world championship of golf starts this morning in this Caribbean island in the sun — or, at least, an island that should be in the sun. Earlier in the week the sun did not seem likely to be on the agenda for this end-of-season spectacular that has brought 28 of the best players to the Tryall Club, ten miles from Montego Bay, to compete for a total purse of £1,812,080.

It was raining cats and dogs, driving rain that rattled the roofs and was accompanied by cracks of lightning. Flash floods caused water to rise above the height of car axles. Vehicles crashed on the winding roads. The heavy rain prompted the thought: was somebody trying to tell the organisers something — that the season had gone on too long and it was high time everybody was at home stuffing the Christmas turkey? It certainly seemed that way. There has to be a time to have a break and, anyway, next season starts in less than a month.

The last tournament staged by the PGA European Tour was the Volvo Masters at Valderrama in southern Spain. That was affected by rain, too, but that was back in November.

"I agree that the week in which the world championship is played is not ideal," Bernhard Langer, the reigning US Masters champion, said. "It is too close to the Christmas season. A lot of our kids are in programmes at school that we'd like to see. It would be nice if it could be a week or two earlier." Nick Faldo, the defending champion, said: "It's too close to Christmas."

This is one reason why three of the world's top five players are missing from this Jamaican jamboree, sponsored by Johnnie Walker, which offers a first prize of £369,127, and a last prize of £33,557, as are six of the top 15. There simply has to come a time when they say enough is enough and no amount of prize-money or appearance money or both will persuade them to change their minds.

The first to do so was Nick Price, the player of the year in the US and, possibly, the world after four victories in the United States and two in Southern Africa. Price, a Zimbabwean who lives in the United States, said he was committed to being with his family this week.

Then Greg Norman and Payne Stewart withdrew from the event. Norman, the Open champion, said he was tired after criss-crossing the Pacific again and again. He intends to spend Christmas in Australia. Stewart had arranged to attend his best friend's wedding before he qualified for the world championship by virtue of his position in the Sony world rankings. They have been replaced by Costantino Rocca, the European Ryder Cup player, and Larry Mize, the 1987 US Masters champion.

The last replacement was forced when Paul Azinger, the US PGA champion, contracted cancer in his shoulder. He is replaced by Jeff Maggert, his compatriot.

Azinger is back in Florida after his first dose of chemotherapy treatment. "It was brutal," he said. "I must have thrown up every 20 minute for nine hours. I've lost eight or nine pounds but I'll get it back."

Faldo is the favourite to win this, the third world championship, though Langer wants to round off the best year he has had since 1985, when he won the US Masters for the first time, and will mount a significant challenge. Faldo has been here since Sunday practising for up to eight hours each day, some of it barefoot.

"I used to practise in a bunker without building a stance so that if I went at the ball I'd slip on the loose sand," Faldo said. He has a tendency for his lower body to be too active in his downswing and he is constantly trying to quieten it down. "At the Ryder Cup, Lead [David Ledbetter, his coach] said: 'Let's try it barefoot', so I have been. It makes me a twinkle toes on my feet."

Faldo will soon embark on a training programme to strengthen the muscles he needs for golf. It is his way of reacting to what has been a poor year by his standards. He has won only two events worldwide and though he remains the world No 1, he describes his season as disappointing. "I'm going to be leaner and meaner," he said. Heaven help the rest.

PAIRINGS

B Hughes (Aus), S Torrance (Scot)
J Parnevik (Swe), C Rocca (It)
F Allem (SA), J Maggert (US)
G Brand Jr (Scot), S Elkington (Aus)
S Okuda (Japan), B Crenshaw (US)
J Gallagher Jnr (US), V Singh (Fiji)
L Mize (US), E Els (SA)
P Baker (Eng), C Strange (US)
C Pavin (US), S Richardson (Eng)
I Woosnam (Wales), T Kite (US)
F Couples (US), B Langer (Ger)
N Faldo (Eng), L Janzen (US)
D Love (US), C Montgomerie (Scot)
B Faxon (US), D Frost (SA)

DAVE ROGERS/ALLSPORT



Colin Montgomerie prepares for the start of the world championship yesterday

Clubs fail to take strain in trying times for players



DAVID HANDS
Rugby Commentary

More than 20 years ago squads became the fashion in rugby union. The general principle was to keep players fresh, allow time for recovery from injury and broaden the base of experience within the club. So popular was the concept that one Welsh club, which ran only one senior XV, said plaintively that it planned to operate a squad system but only had 15 players.

A certain amount of lip service was paid to the idea. It became easier to drop players, except that a club would not say they were dropped: they were being "rested". Taken to the other extreme, some leading clubs achieved the Utopia of playing two first-XV matches on the same day; now there was a squad and a half.

A generation later, in a different context, squads are still all the rage, but are they used properly? When the Senior Clubs Association in England pressed for a 22-match league programme and was mercifully pegged back to the 18 that were introduced for the top two divisions this season, many predicted the requirement for extended squads to cope with the stress and strain on players.

In particular, this was true of those clubs which offered several players to representative rugby. Yet few senior clubs appear genuinely to beusing their squad of players in the fullest sense unless injury forces them to do so.

It is like the headmaster who took up an appointment at a school with a strong sporting reputation. The newcomer was no sports enthusiast but he was conscious of tradition and the need to support it, so he asked the first-XV coach for a few choice phrases to use which might make him appear knowledgeable. Thus each Saturday the head would stride up and down the touchline bellowing: "Make the ball do the work".

Come the hockey term in the spring the head adopted the same principle; after some nifty stickwork by the first XI centre forward, he could still advise that the ball should do the work. But a man of his erudition swiftly grasped that such support would not do in the summer. Thus, at canoeing and swimming events, he would advise his pupils to "make the water do the work".

In other words, you can adopt as many fine principles as you wish but unless you embrace them properly they mean nothing. There would have been a good case on December 4 for clubs resting their players who had been involved in the tumultuous England victory over New Zealand a week earlier.

The players must have felt a sense of anti-climax and, indeed, seven players did not appear in the league programme, but most because of injury, like Kyran Bracken, Tony Underwood, Tim Rodber and Jason Leonard.

It is a delicate equation for clubs, who do not want to risk the loss of league points by fielding anything less than their strongest available team. Points lost in mid-season may return to haunt them in April and may mean the difference between relegation or promotion, and all they entail in terms of commercial success.

Jobs depend on results. The director of rugby and the commercial manager, both paid appointments in an increasing number of clubs, are there to make the club successful. That means winning matches. Where is the bold man who will stand up at the annual meeting in mid-summer, apologise for relegation and tell supporters that a match was lost to unconsidered opponents because two players needed a rest after playing for England?

There is the safety aspect, too. Last week Northampton, who were afflicted by illness and injury, pondered a postponement of their game with Newcastle Gosforth because of a shortage at hooker, a specialist position requiring specific skills and strengths, to which a raw player should not be exposed for fear of injury.

Perhaps the most important view is that of the players concerned. They must be honest with their coach and their team management must respond in kind.

Rob Smith, coach to Wasps, contends that no hard and fast rules should be adopted which might hinder the man-management process. "It depends on the individual and we are very fortunate our players are very committed to the club, because they remember that whatever they achieved came through the club in the first place," Smith said.

Wasps have developed a mid-week match structure which allows them to use players with the complete first-XV back-up. Youngsters feel a sustained sense of interest which in turn motivates them to do well. But without the necessary quantity or quality of games it would be easy to build an over-large squad and find it underemployed.

Wasps might be considered lucky to have a large and loyal squad, but they have worked hard for what they have. What of the club struggling to stay in the first division, needing to ring the last ounce of skill and strength from its best players as frequently as possible? In those circumstances principles may go out of the window.



Bracken: injured

Plucky Holligan climbing too high for comfort



Chávez: ambition

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT
IN PUEBLA, MEXICO

AFTER the furore over the contest between Julio César Chávez and Pernell Whitaker in San Antonio, Texas, when Chávez, although clearly beaten, was given a draw, the Mexican has the chance on Saturday to show that contrary to rumours, he is not slipping and will stay on course to reach the 100-bout mark without being beaten.

Abandoning for the moment his ambition to lift the title of a fourth weight division, welterweight, Chávez has come back to light-welter to defend against Andy Holligan, of Liverpool. The British and Commonwealth champion is intended to be Chávez's 89th victim. Already the champion has pencilled in dates for bouts against Frankie Randall and Meldrick Taylor early in the new year.

Holligan who has boxed only two rounds in 13 months, stopping Lorenzo García, an imported journeyman in May, did not have to think twice about his chance of claiming his biggest pay-day, £85,000. His previous best was £9,000. Four weeks ago, at a week's notice, he packed his bags and with Dave Maguire, a friend, and Colin Moorcroft, his trainer, headed for Mexico. If Holligan, an Everton fan, took on the world's most most devastating puncher at 140lb at Goodison Park with a capacity crowd behind him he would still be a hopeless underdog. But to take Chávez on in this city that stands 10,200ft above sea level in the Estadio Cuauhtémoc before 70,000 Mexicans, most of whom would have paid just £2 to see their hero, seems little short of madness.

Holligan could, of course, point to John H. Stracey, who came to Mexico City in 1975 and won the world title from José Napoles, stopping the great man in the sixth round. But then Napoles was well past his best and Stracey gave himself seven weeks to acclimatise and had the best advice from an expert on altitude training, Dr Neil Phillips, who was the doctor for England's World Cup football team in 1970.

Phillips said that he had given Terry Lawless, Stracey's manager, a complete training schedule and even prescribed slow sodium, a British discovery, to keep Stracey's salt balance normal.

"To acclimatise fully you must give yourself six weeks," Phillips said. "If you run over 400 metres you require extra oxygen. I even noticed that England players had difficulty swallowing after exertion. Of course in boxing it all depends on how the fight goes. I would say two rounds are the equal of 800 metres."

Which means that after six rounds Holligan could be in serious trouble, especially finding that every time he gulps air it is knocked out of him by a Chávez left hook to the body.

If the views of Ron Clarke, the former 10,000 metres champion, and Frank Dick, Britain's director of athletic coaching, are taken into account, by taking on Chávez here Holligan is tying a ball and chain round his legs.

Clarke says that "nobody born at sea level can compete on equal terms at altitude". Dick says that pushing for more at altitude can affect performance permanently. "Not one sea-level athlete regained his peak form after taking part in the Mexico Olympics," he said. "Indeed, the Russians came to the conclusion that no matter how you train you cannot do anything about competing at altitude."

No wonder that in this city, known as the city of churches (one cathedral and 350 churches) nobody gives Holligan a prayer.

SPORTS LETTERS

Cutting out rough stuff

From Mr D. Crofts

Sir, There seems to be a consensus that the rugby football matches that we have been seeing on television in the past three years or so have been very good and entertaining, with three disappointing features: too much rough play, too few tries and too many penalties.

Penalties should be awarded only for rough play, including high tackles, late tackles, tackling a man without the ball, stamping, punching and elbowing; rough play could also be punished by a ten minute sending-off.

Free kicks should be awarded for all other infringements. They should be made more severe in two ways: if a free kick is kicked directly into touch, the non-offending side may chose a scrum instead of the throw-in; if there is a series of free kicks inside the offending team's 22-metre area, the third free kick may be taken as a dropped kick at goal or the fourth free kick (if the third free kick is not a dropped kick) should be replaced by a penalty try.

I believe these measures will reduce rough play and increase try-scoring, but will leave the basic game intact.

Yours faithfully,
D. CROFTS,
4, Moorland Road,
Edgbaston.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 071-782 5046. They must include a daytime telephone number.

English rugby stands accused of hypocrisy

From Mr Steve Hawke

Sir, Within weeks of the All Blacks going home branded as dirty cheats by you fair-minded Englishmen, we have seen sides play in penalty-ridden games amid accusations of eye gouging and biting. No action has been taken over these incidents and one would doubt there will be likewise no mention of cynical cheating despite a penalty count of 39 in one game.

As an All Black supporter who endured a barrage of criticism during and after the recent tour, I find this nothing short of crass hypocrisy.

Next week, when these local indiscretions have been swept under the carpet, will the All Blacks still be dirty cheats? Whining hypocrites.

If New Zealand sports reporters have taken a lead from their British counterparts, I pity the next British rugby team to visit New Zealand.

Yours faithfully,
STEVE HAWKE,
Quarry Park,
Gooseberry Lane,
Pensilva,
Liskeard.

From Mr Sholto Morton

Sir, At Twickenham for the University match, I was impressed to read in the programme that one college, Keble, provided more than 50 per cent of the Oxford XV, plus 50 per cent of the six reserves. Closer inspection revealed, however, that only one of these 11 players is an undergraduate. Of the other ten, not only are they all graduates of other universities, but it seems that all are reading a diploma in Social Studies — a euphemism, I suppose, for a sporting year out.

Two questions arise. How large is the Keble squad of these students in order to achieve a 50 per cent representation in the Oxford squad, and thus deny this number of places to aspiring undergraduates? If another college goes down the same route, how does the University feel about not having any undergraduates in the team at all?

Yours faithfully,
SHOLTO MORTON,
The Old Post Office,
Woodham,
Mortimer,
Maldon, Essex.

Anglers need united voice

From Mr T. C. H. King

Sir, Brian Clarke's article (Angler's angry over licence fees, December 8) suggests that the position with regard to the relationship between the "infuriating" anglers and the National Rivers Authority (NRA) is compounded by the lack of a single voice to represent angling.

Angling has a number of representative organisations, each of whom struggles to increase a mainly pitiful membership from the limited number of anglers who are prepared to join, hopefully to the greater good. The "infuriating" factor is the parochialism of most anglers — in numbers we would have strength, and in strength we would have a single voice (or perhaps many voices with a single conductor!). We can hope that the newly-announced "Angling Governing Bodies Liaison Group" will be able to present a united front to the NRA next time round.

It would seem that the recent licence increases owe more to angling's lack of clout than to the business skills of the NRA, and anglers have only themselves to blame for the increases. While the Salmon & Trout Association can properly argue that it has been instrumental in keeping the trout licence increase down to a more "reasonable" level, it is interesting to reflect that the size of the proposed increase (£13.25 to £22.50) is more than the cost of new membership offered by the association.

Mr Clarke's comparison between the rarity of a rise of eels and the angling media's coverage of angling issues is regrettably accurate. I have met many of the relevant editorial staff, and they are not unthinking people — clearly, they believe that serious coverage of issues would not sell copies. There are, however, some signs that this situation is changing, at least amongst one or two of the newer game-fishing publications. Perhaps, at long last, there is a recognition that anglers, and our governing bodies, will respond to properly argued debate on issues that affect them. Who knows but that next year's round of increases by the NRA will not be kept to nil!

Yours faithfully,
T. C. H. KING,
The Old Cottage,
Blacknest Road,
Sunningdale, Berks.

Prolific clubs point to untapped potential in the Valleys

From Mr John McDonnell

Sir, I note with interest the great difference at this date in the rugby union season between the Courage Clubs Championship first division clubs and the clubs in the Heineken League first division in terms of points scored.

The English clubs have scored a total of 1,467 after an average of 8.8 games each. This is an average of 166 per club, the highest being Bath with an average of 25.7 per match and the lowest being Newcastle Gosforth with only nine per match.

In Wales, after an average of 14.3 games per club, the total is 3,393, at an average of 226.2 per club. The highest is Cardiff, with an average of 32.2 and the lowest is Cross Keys with an average of 14.6.

If the English total is projected to the same number of matches as in Wales, then the total will be 2,380, showing a difference of 1,013 over the same number of matches played. Perhaps analysing the number of penalties and goals kicked as against tries would be illuminating?

Something must be significant in this difference. While they have always played a different style of game in Wales, clubs are managing to score points in spite of their temporary national demise at a much faster rate than their English counterparts.

Surprisingly, also, the Bath total of 232 after nine matches compares with Wasps after eight totalling only 163; projected, the Wasps' total would still only be 183, showing a difference of 50.

I hope that somebody at Twickenham is watching videos of the Welsh clubs to get a clue as to how all these points are being scored. Hopefully the points' scoring abilities of the clubs will not get into the Welsh national XV too soon, or at least not until England have won at Twickenham this season and at Cardiff in the next one.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN McDONNELL,
Somerset,
9, The High Street,
Nettlebed,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxon.

Pride of Canada

From the Canadian High Commissioner

Sir, Quite rightly, the synchronised swimmer, Sylvie Frechette, has had her claim to a gold medal in Barcelona accepted by the International Olympic Committee (Simon Barnes, December 8), correcting an electronic scoring error at the time. Your report, though, is out of harmony in one respect: I am proud to advise that Sylvie Frechette is from Canada, not the United States.

Yours faithfully,
FREDRIK S. EATON,
Canadian High Commissioner,
Macdonald House,
1 Grosvenor Square,
London, W1X 0AB

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 44

MOIETY
(b) A half, one of two equal parts, or one of two parts, not necessarily equal, into which something is divided, a share or portion, ultimately from the Latin *medius* middle; Gibbon, *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*: "We might suspect that war, pestilence, and famine, had consumed, in a few years, the moiety of the human species."

LENIC
(c) Moulding metals, from the Greek *lēnos* a wine press + -ic: "Metallical instruments which worke their operation and effect by pressing, impressioning, or moulding. There is great use of these Lenic instruments, for the tempering and commixing of Sea-coale and Stone-coale."

DEROB
(a) To rob or plunder, perhaps also associated with *robe*, cf. *divest* and *disrobe*, from the Latin *de, dis*, suffix meaning away from + Old French *rober* to rob, take by stealth or force: "Methinks Lucius Brutus his severitie well allated that derobed himself of all respect of a Father."

ENCHIRIDION
(a) A notebook, handbook or manual, a concise treatise serving as a guide or for reference, from the Greek *en* in + *cheir* hand + the diminutive suffix *-idion*: "The Bible is the heavenly enchiridion of those who are beset with the cares, etc., of the world."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1 ... Rxf1+ 2 Qxf1 Qxh2 mate.

Injury puts Bicknell tour place in doubt

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN PORT ELIZABETH

ENGLAND A's latest victory, by 103 runs against an Eastern Province Invitation XI in the Zwide township, was blighted by a further injury to Martin Bicknell. The Surrey fast bowler overcame a knee injury to come here, but, after tweaking his left rib in the nets, he is likely to fly home.

Bicknell was due to play in yesterday's 45-over match. Instead, he suffered an intercostal injury before the start of play and saw an orthopaedic specialist in Port Elizabeth last night. As this is the type of injury that can require a month's recuperation, or longer, it may be unavoidable to summon a replacement.

Bob Bennett, the tour manager, did not consider it "prudent" to discuss alternatives until Bicknell's physical condition was known. Richard Blakey is the deputy wicketkeeper, in case Steven Rhodes has to withdraw, but the selectors did not publicly nominate a "subs bench" of quick bowlers when the two touring parties were selected in September.

Paul Taylor, Northamptonshire's 29-year-old left-armer, who went on the senior tour to India last winter, would be considered if Bicknell went home. Tim Munton, of Warwickshire, is another and so is Glen Chapple, Lancashire, if youth counts for anything, which — judging by the composition of this party — it does. Chapple is 19 and although he had a moderate season he is on the fast track for promotion.

The two Marks, Lathwell and Ilott, who contributed so heftily to the win over Transvaal, were rested yesterday, which enabled Martin McCague to play, with a view to the four-day game against Eastern Province, which starts tomorrow. McCague took the first two wickets of the innings and the last as the Invitation XI were bowled out for 86.

This was another day when the need to win was tempered by the special nature of the occasion. There is no doubt that the visit of an official England team after 29 years has been well-received and, in the townships, there is a sense of wonder, as though people from a different planet have come among them — which, in a sense, they have.

Zwide is not the sort of place many western observers would recognise. The abnormality of this country to anyone bred in a liberal democracy requires no expansion and sport can play an important part in narrowing polarities. One of the most interesting spectacles of the day occurred when most people had drifted away and a gaggle of boys, eight or nine years young, kicked a football about on the square. It is not just talented young cricketers South Africa is producing.

In defeat, a local cricketer supplied the individual performance of the day. Clayton Wait took a peculiar hat trick — Cork, his final wicket, was separated from Dale and Croft, the first two, by an over — as he claimed four wickets. Oddly, his team-mates had to tell him what he had done.

Diary, page 16

SCOREBOARD

England A

J P Crawley lbw b Birrell	58
H Morris c Masakazana b Birrell	16
M B Loye c Lyle b Wait	28
A P Wells run out	18
A Dale c Oeqe b Wait	39
R D B Croft b Wait	8
S J Rhodes not out	1
D G Cork lbw b Wait	1
D Gough not out	3
Extras (b 2, lb 4, w 7, nb 2)	15
Total 7 wkts (45 overs)	189

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-56, 2-103, 3-120, 4-136, 5-181, 6-181, 7-183.

DID NOT BAT: M J McCague, P M Such.

BOWLING: Lyle 5-1-22-0, Roe 9-1-29-0, Birrell 9-2-39-2; Oeqe 9-1-35-0; Wait 9-0-34-4; Mahuwa 4-0-24-0

Eastern Province XI

A Botha c Crawley b Croft	20
R Yearwood lbw b McCague	0
N Mahuwa c Cork b McCague	8
T Wait st Rhodes b Croft	1
A Birrell st Rhodes b Such	27
M Safedein st Rhodes b Dale	12
L Masakazana run out	1
R Domingo lbw b Dale	0
R Lyle b McCague	5
G Roe b Dale	0
R Oeqe not out	5
Extras (lb 2, w 1, nb 4)	7
Total (33.2 overs)	86

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-21, 3-22, 4-38, 5-57, 6-75, 7-76, 8-76, 9-76

BOWLING: McCague 7.2-0-27-3; Gough 3-1-7-0, Croft 7-4-7-2; Cork 5-1-14-0; Such 5-1-18-1; Dale 6-0-11-3.

England A beat Eastern Province XI by 88 runs

DENZIL McNEELANCE



Davies, with family encouragement yesterday, works her way back to fitness after a pause for pregnancy

Gold medals for motherhood

BY JOHN GOODBODY

SHARRON Davies did not miss much training while preparing for her first child. She swam 1½ miles on the day she was due to give birth and two days afterwards she completed 100 sit-ups and 20 minutes on an exercise machine.

Now, she and her boyfriend, Derek Redmond, Britain's second-fastest runner over 400 metres, are planning to compete in the 1994 Commonwealth Games. It will be her farewell to swimming and his opportunity to make up for the disaster of the Olympic Games in Barcelona, when he damaged a hamstring and hobbled over the finish line supported by his father.

Davies, who had a boy, Elliott, last month, is inspired by the example of Margaret Hohmann, a silver medal-winner at the 1980 Olympics. She proved it was possible to return to top-flight swimming after having a child.

There is a widespread medical belief and statistical evidence from other sports that the experience of pregnancy has a strengthening effect. Liz McColgan, the 1991 world 10,000 metres champion, Fanny Blankers-Koen, who took four gold medals at the 1948 Olympics, and Mary Rand, who captured the 1964 Olympic long-jump title with a world record, are just three examples of mothers who became champions.

Davies will concentrate on sprinting, particularly the 100 metres freestyle and butterfly, to try for a place at the Games. Now aged 31, she will aim more at quality training and less on quantity. "The time for counting the tiles on the bottom of the pool has gone." She will be in the water only once a day, spending the second session on a NordicTrack machine, which exercises both the upper and lower parts of the body.

Dr Craig Sharp, a leading exercise physiologist, is among those who believe women are stronger after giving birth. "Being pregnant is a sort of progressive resistance training. It does strengthen the heart," he has maintained. "Pregnancy forces the cardiovascular system to become more efficient to cope with the body's increasing weight. This level of efficiency can be retained after childbirth.

"Pregnancy also has an anabolic effect on muscles. In a way it is like taking a course of natural anabolic steroids. It also has a psychological effect. Women athletes, who have had children, say they feel tougher and stronger after birth. It gives them an extra edge. They can handle the pain of training. Labour is well-named."

The birth has also had an effect on Redmond, whose athletics career has been constantly interrupted by injury. He has had three operations on each of his Achilles tendons.

"I don't know about Sharron. But since the birth of Elliott I have been flying in training," he said.

Webb backed by chairman

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

MARTIN Lange, the Brentford chairman, yesterday refused to accept David Webb's offer to resign and backed the manager's decision to dismiss Micky Bennett, the striker, despite a ruling by the Football League Appeals Commission that the player must be reinstated.

Bennett was dismissed after an incident in training last month which left his team-mate, Joe Allon, with a broken jaw. Bennett appealed to the appeals commission, which said he must be reinstated. Webb was so incensed he offered to resign, but Lange yesterday strongly supported him, promising an appeal against the appeals commission verdict, which now looks certain to become a test case of a manager's authority.

"In no way do I accept the resignation of our manager, David Webb," Lange said. "Both the board and myself are totally committed to his decision in the dismissal of Michael Bennett for serious misconduct and we will lodge an appeal against the findings of the league commission."

Leeds United have turned down Crystal Palace's request to take the former England midfield player, David Rocastle, on loan. Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, said Rocastle, who has been out of favour at Elland Road recently, could be needed for the Christmas and New Year programme.

"I told them that if I thought differently after giving the matter further thought I might get back to them," Wilkinson said.

Eric Wynalda, the United States striker, is having a week's trial with Sheffield Wednesday. Wynalda, who plays for the German club, Saarbrücken, was in the United States team which beat England 2-0 in the US Cup last summer.

Sergey Cherbakov, the Russian international who plays for Sporting Lisbon in Portugal, was seriously injured yesterday when he was involved in a car crash after a farewell party for Bobby Robson, the former England manager, who parted company with the club last week.

It is feared that Cherbakov, 21, could be paralysed from the waist down after fracturing his skull and two verterbrae when the car he was driving collided with two others on the main Avenida de Liberdade in Lisbon.

Cherbakov was conscious and in a stable condition, but unable to move below the eighth and ninth vertebrae. Dr Jose Figueiredo, of the San Jose Hospital in Lisbon, said. Cherbakov was due to be operated on yesterday evening. Figueiredo said it was too soon to tell if the paralysis would be permanent.

Thistle grasp big chance

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

FIVE non-league clubs get their chance today to win friends in their claim to become the 39th and 40th clubs in the Scottish Football League. The existing 38 senior sides gather in Glasgow to hear Ross County, Elgin City, Gala Fairydean, Gretna and the newly-amalgamated Caledonian Thistle state their case for admission next season.

After that, the 38 league clubs will hold a special meeting next month to vote on which two will join the restructured league of four divisions of ten from the 1994-95 season.

Inverness Caledonian and Inverness Thistle, now one after months of wrangling, are strongly tipped to get one of the two places. Neither team could agree on a name or a venue for an amalgamated team and several protest meetings were held in Inverness before a peace plan was put forward on Monday to call the club Caledonian Thistle.

Jimmy Falconer, secretary of Inverness Caley, said that a new stadium would be built from the proceeds of the sale of the two existing grounds, which would be more than £1 million. "How many premier clubs have got £1 million in the bank?" he asked.

Gala, the East of Scotland side, from the rugby union stronghold in the Borders, intend to play a trump card today — Craig Chalmers, the Scotland stand-off half, will appear as a star witness to stress that the two football codes can work in harmony in that area.

Ross County, who would become the most northerly senior side in Britain if they are admitted, helped their cause on Saturday, beating St Cuthbert Wanderers 11-0 in the Scottish Cup.

Gretna, who play in the English Northern Premier League, also showed their capabilities by running Bolton Wanderers close in an FA Cup tie last month. Elgin City, the most recent Highland League team to reach the quarter-finals of the Scottish Cup, some 30 years ago, were stripped of their title last season because of irregularities.

Peter Donald, the Scottish League secretary, said: "This is an informal opportunity for the five applicant clubs to back up, by means of a presentation, what they have been saying in their formal written applications.

☐ Ian Ferguson, of Rangers, was summoned yesterday to appear before the Scottish FA on January 18 to answer a charge of spitting at an opponent last weekend. Ferguson was sent off in the final minute of Rangers' 3-0 defeat by Dundee United at Ibrox. He has already been fined by the club for spitting at United's Gordan Petric, but now faces further disciplinary action.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Chépé make most of early advantage

THE Oxford rowing crews, Chépé and Sabutai, produced a fine contest in their trial eights yesterday. Chépé, on Middlesex, took an early half-length lead and a crab by Sabutai's strokeman, Harry MacMillan, gave Chépé clear water just after Chiswick Steps. Sabutai fought back and was overlapping at the finish.

CREWS: Chépé: Bow, J P Hodges (Abingdon and Oriel); 2, A Halligan (John Lyon School, Warwick University and St Antony's); 3, H S Corroon (Harvard, University of Oxford, Warwick University and St Antony's); 4, C N Mahne (Eton and St Catherines); A Pearson (Canford and Munich and Keble); 4, C N Mahne (Eton and St Catherines); 5, J G Worcester); 6, S Lorgan (Spzeikavik VGS, Norway, Harvard and University); 7, J G Michels (St John's College HS, La Salle USA and Pembroke), Old blue, Stroke, D R Clegg (Radley, University College, London and Keble); Cox, G A Whiting (Monmouth and Christ Church).

Sabutai: Bow, J B McLanahan (Yale and Pembroke); 2, D K Ismay (Gonzaga College HS, Naval Academy US and The Queen's'st, 3, O E Griffiths (Shrewsbury and Christ Church), 4, R F Morrison (St Pauls, Reading University and Oriel), 5, A Gordon-Brown (Hyde Park HS, University of Capetown, SA and Keble), 6, S Lorgan (Lycee Corneille, Rouen, Harvard and MIT, and Nuffield); 7, K K Poole (Magdalen College School and St John's), president and Old Blue; Stroke, H J MacMillan (Eton and Worcester); Cox, A M Mathers (Loughborough HS and Pembroke)

Photograph, page 44

King urges BBC link

TENNIS: The All England championships at Wimbledon should retain its links to BBC television when its contract comes up for renewal in 1995, the retiring Lawn Tennis Association president, Ian King, said yesterday. Despite BSkyB's interest in adding the world's top tournament to its growing list of leading sports events, King added he hoped the existing arrangement could be continued.

"Satellite companies have taken many of the major sporting events away from national television," he said. "I would prefer that Wimbledon stays with the BBC. I believe we are in a strong position because we are one of the jewels still in their crown." Wimbledon recently announced record profits of £16.4 million for this year's tournament. King also warned that the financial boom tennis has enjoyed in recent years may be ending, with sponsorship waning and prize-money at unsustainably high levels.

Holt surmounts crisis

TABLE TENNIS: Andrea Holt, the national champion, survived both red and yellow cards against her and saved two match-points in a frantic final contest that eventually secured England's women a 4-3 win over France at St Georges des Coteaux on Tuesday evening. England's victory virtually guaranteed a place in the final of the European League for the first time. Holt, who had been dropped for the win over Hungary last month, beat Sylvia Plaisant by 18-21, 21-18, 25-23 in an enthralling climax to a five-hour struggle between the two teams.

Successful opening

BADMINTON: Nick Ponting and Gill Clark, who won England's only medal, a bronze, at the world championships in Birmingham in June, made a competent start to the World Grand Prix finals in Kuala Lumpur yesterday when they beat the Hong Kong pairing, Chan Sui Kwang and Chung Hoi Yuk, by 15-11, 15-10. Another Englishman, Peter Knowles, who was making his debut in the event, played a good first game against the All-England champion, Heryanto Arbi. Knowles led 4-0 and matched the Indonesian until 10-12 before going down 15-10, 15-3.

Confident O'Sullivan

SNOOKER: Ronnie O'Sullivan wrapped up a 5-2 victory over Ken Doherty, of Ireland, last night and then spoke confidently about his chances of winning the European Open in Antwerp. O'Sullivan — winner of the UK championship last month when he was still a week away from his eighteenth birthday — admitted his game was not as sharp as it was when he defeated Stephen Hendry 10-6 to win the UK title in Preston. "But I am flying with confidence and I'll be a hard man to beat," O'Sullivan said. He meets Steve Davis in the quarter-finals today.

Rhodes recovering

CRICKET: Jonty Rhodes, of South Africa, who broke a bone in his left hand during a one-day match against Australia on Tuesday, could be fit to play in the first Test in Melbourne on December 26, Rob Muzzel, the team manager, said yesterday. "Jonty has an outside chance of playing in the Test and we are frantically working on him trying to get him right," Muzzel said. Brian McMillan, the all-rounder who is recovering from a knee operation, will return to the South Africa party after the first Test. "McMillan won't be right for the first Test but should be back after that," Muzzel said.

Montgomerie attacks

REAL TENNIS: Richard Montgomerie, who is also a fine cricket and rackets player, survived a tense three-setter against James Beaumont to reach the last 16 of the British under-24 championship at Queen's Club. Montgomerie was at times prone to overhit but in the final set he found a better length on the floor and his extra pace and excellent volleying gave him the edge over a mobile opponent. He now meets the favourite, Nick Wood, the Hampton Court professional. Reuraidh Gunn, favourite for the under-21 event, dropped only three games in his first match.

Players back in force

SQUASH: The SRA national championships, which last year were reduced by officials to a competition exclusively for English players and to virtual redundancy because of a players' boycott, have attracted a full entry for the 1994 event, which is to be staged at Herts Country Club in Welwyn Garden City in January. With a £15,000 prize fund put up by the English Squash Rackets Association and now open to all British players, the entry for the championships closed yesterday with all the top-ranked players from the home nations listed.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): New York 93 Denver 84, Houston 97 Miami 88; Charlotte 107 Minnesota 85; Atlanta 103 Cleveland 92, Los Angeles Lakers 99 Detroit 93; Indiana 108 Washington 87, Portland 100 Dallas 93 (OT); Seattle 124 Orlando 100

BADMINTON

KUALA LUMPUR: Grand prix finals: First round: Men: Singles: F Permadi (Indo) bt J Olsson (Swe) 15-10, 15-4, H Aris (Indo) bt P Knowles (Eng) 15-10, 15-3, J Supriyanto (Indo) bt Lee Mei Chow (Taiwan) 15-8, 15-7; H Susanto (Indo) bt S Kukasemkij (Thai) 15-11, 15-9, A Wiranata (Indo) bt Lin Wei-Chin (Taiwan) 15-11, 15-7, A Budi Kusuma (Indo) bt M Maneky (Indo) 15-6, 15-9; Rashid Sidek (Malaysia) bt P Espersen (Den) 15-0, 2-15, 15-5; Kim Hak Kyun (S Kor) bt Ong Ewe Hock (Malaysia) 18-16, 17-15

Women: Singles: S Susanto (Indo) bt Chan Chai Fong (Malaysia) 11-3, 11-2; Han Jingna (China) bt Cheng Yin Sui (HK) 11-6, 11-5, Ye Zhaoying (China) bt Leong Yeng Cheng (Malaysia) 11-1, 11-2; Bang Soo Hyun (S Kor) bt Z Abdullah (Sing) 11-2, 11-1. Mixed doubles: N Ponting and G Clark (Eng) bt Chan Su Kwong and Chung Hoi Yuk (HK) 15-11, 15-10

BOXING

BAY ST LOUIS, Mississippi: Super-middleweight contest (10 rnds): Roberto Duran (Pan) bt Tony Menefee (US) rsc 8th

FOOTBALL

NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: First division: Wimbledon 1 Ipswich 0

JAPANESE LEAGUE: Verdy Kawasaki 2 Kashima Antlers 1, Shimizu S-Pulse 1 Yokohama Marinos 0; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2 Yokohama Flugels 1, Urawa Red Diamonds 2 Gamba Osaka 0, Nagoya Grampus 8 EF Ichihara 0. Leading positions (at end of regular season): 1, Verdy Kawasaki pl 18, W 16, L 2; 2, Shimizu S-Pulse 18, 14, 4; 3, Yokohama M 18, 10, 8

Postponed

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Falkirk v Greenock Morton; Hamilton Academical v Stirling Albion

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Liverpool v Bolton. Second division: Huddersfield v Middlesbrough; Scunthorpe v Rotherham

NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: First division: Swindon v Bristol R, Tottenham v Charlton. Second division: Yeovil v Birmingham, Swansea v Exeter.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Tiverton v Saltash. First division: Glastonbury v Devizes

Late results on Tuesday

FA CUP: Second round, replays: Exeter City 2 Leyton Orient 2 (aet; 1-1 at 90min; Exeter win 5-4 on pens). Scunthorpe Utd 0 Walsall 0 (aet, Scunthorpe win 7-6 on pens)

COCA-COLA CUP: Fourth round, replay: Wimbledon 2 Liverpool 2 (aet; 2-2 at 90min; Wimbledon win 4-3 on pens).

AUTOGLASS TROPHY: Second round: Wycombe Wanderers 3 Cardiff City 2 (aet; 2-2 at 90min)

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Telford United 2 Stafford Rangers 1.

DRINKWISE CUP: Quarter-final: Welling 1 Bromsgrove Rovers 2

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Aberdeen 2 Partick Thistle 1. First division: Dunfermline Athletic 6 Ayr United 1.

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: First round, replay: Queen's Park 2 Cowdenbeath 3.

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Group three: Spain 3, Germany 1 (in Cordoba)

NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: First division: Arsenal 2 Luton 3, QPR 2 Brighton 0; Watford 1 Chelsea 3, West Ham 1 C Palace 1

PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: Derby 1 Leeds 1. Postponed: Liverpool v Bolton, Notts C v Manchester Utd; Sheffield Utd v Blackburn. Second division: Bradford C 3 Stoke 1; Grimsby 3 Blackpool 0; Oldham 0 Tranmere 1.

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Premier division: Postponed: Buxton v Leek; Chorley v Emley

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Hayes 3 Bromley 1. Second division: Aldershot T 1 Leatherhead 0. Postponed: Wembley v Barking. League Cup: Third round: Basingstoke 1 Marlow 1; Boggrr Regs 2 Enfield 3; Staines 0 St Albans 1. Postponed: Saffron Walden v Maidenhead Utd.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Gloucester 0 Stevenage 1. Dr Martens Cup: Third round: Watersonville 1 Dorchester 2. Postponed: Sudbury v Gravesend and N

FA VASE: Third round: Pelsall Villa 2 Halstead 4

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE CUP: Blyth Sp 2 Gateshead 1, Stockton 2 Seaham RS 0. Postponed: Dunston FB v Eppleton CW.

JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Cornard 3 Histon 2; Gt Yarmouth 0 Lowestoft 1. Postponed: Newmarket v Wisbech, Wroxham v Stowmarket

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: President's Cup: Pickering 0 Armthorpe Wel 1. Postponed: Bolper v Ponterract Col; Glasshoughton Wel v Lincoln Utd; North Ferriby v Liversedge

CAWOODS COUNTY ANTRIM SHIELD: Quarter-finals: Crusaders 2 Ballyclare 0; Distillery Reds 2 (aet) Glenavon 2 Portadown 0. Postponed: Newry v Bangor.

ALLBRIGHT BITTER WELSH CUP: Fourth round: Postponed: Bangor v Ton Pentre

GOLF

LA QUINTA, California: PGA assistant professionals' championship: Leading first-round scores (US unless called): 68: R McNamara 70: M Taylor 71: S Brady, E Mercier (Can) British: 77: C Everett.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Detroit 6 Anaheim 2, New York Islanders 4 New Jersey 1; Pittsburgh 4 Los Angeles 2, Tampa Bay 1 Montreal 1 (OT); Calgary 8 Vancouver 4

RUGBY LEAGUE

REGAL TROPHY: Third Round. Batley 8 Salford 12. Postponed: Bradford Northern v Halifax.

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: Second division: Postponed: Dewsbury v Doncaster.

SKI JUMPING

PREDAZZO, Italy: World Cup (90m) 1, J Wasicllo (Ger) 238 5pts (88 5m and 96m); 2, E Bredesen (Nor) 268 5 (86 and 93), 3 A Goldberger (Austria) 220 5 (89 and 92.5) Overall positions: 1, Wasicllo 245pts; 2, Bredesen 240; 3, Goldberger 200

SNOOKER

ANTWERP: European Open: First round: S Hendry (Scot) bt M Price (Eng) 5-0; F D'Orazio (Ire) bt S James (Eng) 5-1; D Reynolds (Eng) bt N Bond (Eng) 5-2, J Parrott (Eng) bt A Hamilton (Eng) 5-4. Second round: S Davis (Eng) bt D Taylor (N Ire) 5-1; J Wattana (Thai) bt D Morgan (Wales) 5-1, R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt K Doherty (Ire) 5-2; A McManus (Scot) bt D Roe (Eng) 5-3

SQUASH

BOMBAY: International challenge: Group A: B Maran (Aus) bt R Eyles (Aus) 15-9, 15-11, 15-10. Group B: P Marshall (Eng) bt C Walker (Eng) 15-11, 15-12, 15-11, S Parke (Eng) bt R Norman (NZ) 15-8, 15-5, 15-7.

TABLE TENNIS

LIÈGE: European men's league: Belgium bt England 4-2 (Belgium names first): J Saive bt M Syed 21-17, 22-21; P Saive lost to Chen Xinhua 15-21, 15-21; T Cabrera bt C Prean 14-21, 21-16, 21-16; J Saive and Cabrera lost to A Cooke and Prean 21-15, 22-24, 18-21; J Saive bt Chen 21-10, 12-21, 21-8, P Saive bt Prean 21-18, 9-21, 23-21

BORDEAUX: European women's league: England bt France 4-3 (England names first): A Holt bt E Coubal 21-15, 21-16, L Lomas lost to A Boileau 18-21, 18-21; A Gordon bt S Pelicant 13-21, 22-20, 21-13; Lomas and Holt bt Pleasant and E Lienlinao 21-17, 21-9, Lomas lost to Coubal 19-21, 13-21, Gordon lost to Boileau 21-19, 18-21, 16-21, Holt bt Pleasant 21-18, 18-21, 25-23

TENNIS

TELFORD: Midland Bank schools' team competitions: National finals: Boys: 15 and under: Semi-finals: Millfield, Somerset bt Caldew, Cumbria 6-0, St Joseph's, Suffolk bt Colonel Frank Seely, Notts 4-2. Final: Millfield bt St Joseph's 5-1. 3rd/4th: Colonel Frank Seely bt Caldew 5-1, 13 and under: Semi-finals: Eversfield, Warwicks drew with Langley Park, Kent 3-3 (Eversfield won 28-24 on games), Edgarley Hall, Somerset bt Calday Grange, Lancs 6-0. Final: Edgarley Hall drew with Eversfield 3-3 (Edgarley Hall won 31-29 on games) 3rd/4th: Langley Pk bt Calday Grange 5-1.

Girls: 15 and under: Semi-finals: Maynard, Devon bt Withington, Lancs 4-2; Edgbaston, Warwicks bt St Helens, Merseyside 6-0. Final: Edgbaston bt Maynard 6-0. 3rd/4th: St Helens drew with Withington 3-3 (St Helens won 32-30 on games).

RIFLE SHOOTING

NSRA COUNTY RIFLE MATCHES (post-al): Winners: BSA Cup: Surrey 3,913pts; Mrs Charles Lawe Trophy: Hampshire 1,932. Women's teams of five: Surrey 1,928.

FIXTURES

7.30 unless stated

FOOTBALL

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Second division: Burnley v Mansfield (7.00); Manchester City v Port Vale (6.45).

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Dr Martens Cup: Second round: Evesham v Gloucester.

RUGBY LEAGUE

REGAL TROPHY: Third round: Bradford Northern v Halifax.

YOUNGERS ALLIANCE: First division: Bradford Northern v Widnes; Castleford v Featherstone Rovers

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Men's European clubs' championship: Semi-final series: Guildford Kings v Real Madrid (Spectrum Arena: 8.00).

EQUESTRIANISM: International show jumping championships (Olympia)

ICE HOCKEY: International match: Great Britain v Denmark (Humberside, 8.00)

TENNIS: Midland Bank national schools' championships (Telford).

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Enquiries and Commentary 27th November 1993 - 3RDS. All dividends subject to rounding.

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هكذا من الأصل

Move to ease entry fee burden for major races

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

THE British Horseracing Board (BHB) introduced the framework yesterday for a significant reduction in owners' entry costs to major races and a structure of entry and forfeit dates that will give connections more time to assess whether their horses are good enough to compete in the highest class.

The board's decision to act on growing concerns from a strong representation of owners amounts to a change in tack from the policy it inherited from the Jockey Club, many of whose officials in the race planning department are now in residence at the BHB.

Prompt action by the board will save racehorse owners an estimated £400,000 in entry costs next year, when their contribution towards total prize-money for group one and group two races will drop from 37 per cent to 30 per cent. A further reduction to 22.5 per cent is planned by 1996.

Any consequent shortfall in total prize-money for the relevant races will not be replenished from racing's coffers, but BHB racing director, Paul Greeves, stressed yesterday that group-race values were not likely to suffer unduly in comparison to races of similar quality staged by rival European racing nations.

Previous lines of policy held that prize-money for British group races should be maintained at existing comparable levels with those in Europe.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: IT'S THE PITS (3.10 Kelso)
Next best: Scotton Banks (2.10 Kelso)

Changes to a later closing date and a more equitable series of forfeit dates are relevant to the big two-year-old races and the St Leger. Entries for this year's St Leger, run at Doncaster in September, had to be made by March, when few trainers could predict whether their horses were up to it. As a result, owners complained of a considerable wastage in entry fees.

Similarly, entries for the Cheveley Park Stakes and Dewhurst Stakes, both group one races for juveniles run at Newmarket in October, had to be made by the end of March, when none of the horses had even seen a racecourse.

John Sanderson, managing director of Doncaster racecourse, has submitted proposals to the BHB for an overhaul in entry conditions to the St Leger. Among other things, Sanderson has stated that Britain's oldest classic would benefit from moving the closing date for entries until Royal Ascot, which would allow owners and trainers to make more accurate assessments of the ability of their horses.

Owner-breeder Gerald Leigh, who initiated calls for a reduction in owners' contributions in May, welcomed the BHB's initiative. He said yesterday: "I am pleased with the progress so far and I welcome the BHB's aim to reduce still further our contributions to major races in the future. We can now target individual entries more carefully and with less waste."

In addition to the announced changes, Greeves said the race planning committee will be recommending that all group one races for which entries close more than eight weeks in advance, should embrace a supplementary entry stage. The Derby, which has its own unique entry structure, will be the only exception.

But calls for supplementary entries to be advanced to the eve of the race, rather than six days before, have been dismissed.

"That would not be fair to the owners who have to declare at the five-day stage," Greeves said. "They are reasonably entitled to know who the supplementary entries are before deciding whether to declare their horse or not."

The overall rate of owners' contributions towards total prize-money has dropped from 28 per cent in 1988 to 20 per cent last year, and the BHB plans to reduce this level still further to 15 per cent by 1996.



Bob's Return winning the St Leger in September but plans have been submitted to change the entry conditions

Gifford dispels Kempton rumours

THE connections of Bradbury Star yesterday scotched rumours that the horse may miss the King George VI Chase at Kempton on December 27.

The bookmakers' grapevine was alive with stories that the Josh Gifford-trained gelding had suffered a leg injury and was doubtful for the race.

William Hill yesterday scratched Bradbury Star from their betting but later reinstated him after Gifford insisted that the horse would take part.

Bradbury Star's owner, James Campbell, admitted that his chaser had suffered a hiccup in his King George preparation but reported that all was now well. "Bradbury Star kicked himself slightly and was cast in his box at the weekend, but there's no problem now and he's worked well since," he said.

A William Hill spokesman, David Hood, said: "There had been no support for the horse and then we were told that he had his foot in a bucket and was a doubtful runner. We decided that it was only fair to take him out of the betting. But since then we've been assured by the Gifford stable that there isn't a problem, so we've reinstated him."



Gifford: no doubts

Jodami and Cab On Target are already King George absentees and the quality of the race would have been diminished further with the defection of Bradbury Star, who won the Mackeson Gold Cup.

Jodami's trainer, Peter Beaumont, is still awaiting the results of dope tests taken after the Gold Cup winner's disappointing third in the Rehearsal Chase at Chepstow last month.

"Jodami has brightened up considerably but he definitely won't be running in the King George. I am looking to give him his next race in the Peter Marsh Chase at Haydock next month," he said.

William Hill's latest King George betting is: 5-2 The Fellow, Barton Bank, 11-2 Bradbury Star, Black Humour, 6-1 Young Hustler, 8-1 Travado, 12-1 Zeta's Lad, 14-1 Docklands Express, 25-1 bar.

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TOWCESTER

THUNDERER

12.30 Ballet Royal
1.00 Judges Fancy
1.30 Port In A Storm
2.00 BIT OF A CLOWN (nap)
2.30 Rejoinus
3.00 Carpet Slippers

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 BALLET ROYAL

GOING: HEAVY SIS

12.30 CHRISTMAS PUDDING NOVICES HURDLE
(£1,984: 2m) (16 runners)

101	F5-2321	GORTEERA 7 (G) (Miss P Harding) D Brennan 7-11-5	M Brennan	98	
102	00523	ARCTIC LIFE 31 (Mrs T McCoubrey) J Jenkins 4-10-12	W J Walsh (7)	86	
103	2	BALLET ROYAL 14 (Park Farm Thoroughbreds) G Harwood 4-10-12	M Perrett	BB	
104	0	BANDMASTER 7 (A Gorrie) J Fitch-Heyes 4-10-12	E Murphy	–	
105	53341-8	BARNA BOY 19 (D,S) (L Wilson) N Henderson 5-10-12	R Dunwoody	94	
106		BENNYS SPECIAL 1349F (W Hackett) R Weaver 6-10-12	Mr A Seasome	–	
107		BRIC LANE 1223F (A Stone) R Sorie 6-10-12	Lesse Long	–	
108		ISLAND BLADE 49F (The Lime Street Racing Syndicate) R Akehurst 4-10-12	G McCourt	–	
109		LE BARON PERCHE 502F (Miss J King) C James 4-10-12	S McNeill	–	
110	4	MAKES ME GOOSEY 28 (Wiltonshire Ltd) Mrs I McKie 5-10-12	L Harvey	–	
111	62-4	MR CLANCY 12 (K Clancy) K Bailey 5-10-12	N Williamson	–	
112	3	RELKEEL 15 (Brig C Harvey) D Nicholson 4-10-12	A Maguire	–	
113	0-0	SPANISH BLAZE 15 (Mrs E Baines) N Henderson 5-10-12	M A Fitzgerald	–	
114		THE GREY TEXAN 498F (Mrs C Watford) P Makin 4-10-12	R Guest	–	
115	50/48-	THE PORTSOY LOON 271 (Mrs E Cousmaon) G Thorner 6-10-12	D Bridgwater	75	
116	0024-8	TRYING AGAIN 75 (W Dore) D Gandolfo 5-10-12	P Holley	–	

BETTING: 5-2 Ballet Royal, 7-2 Barna Boy, 6-1 Mr Clancy, 8-1 Gorteera, Island Blade, Relkeel, 10-1 Arctic Life, Barna Boy, 12-1 others.

1992: ROYAL FLAMINGO 6-10-7 R Beggan (50-1) G Bravery 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

GORTEERA beat Nagobella 20l in a 5-runner novice handicap hurdle at Fakenham (2m 5f, good). ARCTIC LIFE 2l 2nd to Old Bridge in a novice hurdle at Plumpton on penultimate start (2m 1f, good). BALLET ROYAL 5l 2nd of 14 to Jodrah in a novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, good). BARNA BOY 21l 6th of 19 to Large Action in a novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110y, good). MR CLANCY head 2nd of 11 to Call House in a National Hunt flat race at Cheltenham on penultimate start (2m 1f, good to firm). RELKEEL just over 5l 3rd of 22 to Lead Vocalist in a National Hunt flat race at Huntingdon (2m 110y, good to soft).
Selection: BALLET ROYAL

1.00 MISTLETOE NOVICES CHASE (£3,210: 2m 6l) (10 runners)

201	F-U22F1	JUDGES FANCY 12 (B,C,S,S) (Mrs S Scott) N Twiston-Davies 9-11-7	C Llewellyn	98	
202	000-PP0	DEEP IN GREEK 15 (R Matthews) D Williams 7-11-0	R Davis (3)	–	
203	425211/5	RINO 17 (F) (Mrs S Robins) D Nicholson 7-11-0	A Maguire	BB	
204	13010P-	NO LIGHT 195 (G,S) (Wiltonshire Ltd) Mrs I McKie 6-11-0	L Harvey	–	
205	00-P	ONE MORE RUN 36 (M Jackson Bloodstock Ltd) G Balding 6-11-0	R Guest	–	
206	141121-3	PRECIPICE RUN 12 (G,S) (Cambrian Racing Club) G Richards 8-11-0	R Dunwoody	82	
207	042-24	RIVER MANDATE 18 (BF) (Anne Duchess of Westminster) T Forster 6-11-0	B Powell	–	
208	54010-2	SUFFOLK ROAD 15 (G,S) (Alpha Financial Futures) R Rowe 6-11-0	H Davies	92	
209	000043-	VITAL SCORE 283 (Mrs A Pollard) J King 7-11-0	S Smith Eccles	–	
210	5/5P0P-5	MISTRESS MICKENZIE 13 (B Moore) K Bishop 7-10-9	R Greene	–	

BETTING: 9-4 Judges Fancy, 11-4 Precipice Run, 6-1 Fino, 10-1 River Mandate, 12-1 others.

1992: DAKYNS BOY 7-11-7 P Scudamore (11-8 fav) N Twiston-Davies 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

JUDGES FANCY beat Fardrass 10l in an 11-runner novice chase here (3m 1f, soft). FINO 12¾l 5th of 13 to Poppers Pet in a novice handicap chase at Worcester (2m 4f 110y, good). NO LIGHT'S best effort came when beating Danny Star 2l in an 18-runner handicap hurdle at Navan in December 1992 (2m 5f, heavy). PRECIPICE RUN 11l 3rd of 7 to Run Up The Flag in a novice chase at Wetherby (2m 4f 110y, good). RIVER MANDATE 1¾l 2nd of 14 to Act Of Parliament in a novice hurdle at Warwick on penultimate start (2m 4f 110y, good to firm). SUFFOLK ROAD 7l 2nd of 8 to Canoscan in a novice chase at Leicester (2m 4f 110y, good to soft). with RIVER MANDATE 25½l beaten 4th.
Selection: JUDGES FANCY

1.30 TURKEY AND HAM CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HURDLE
(4-Y-O: £1,631: 2m) (7 runners)

301	542110	PORT IN A STORM 8 (D,BF,S) (S Barningham) N Tinkler 11-8	E Husband	92	
302		CAPTAIN TANDY 92F (Mrs C Kelly) K Bridgwater 10-12	W Marston	–	
303	40-2660	NORDIC BEAT 42 (Mrs G Weetman) W Clay 10-12	R Farrant	BB	
304	4R0428	PRIVATE JET 7 (BF) (G Passant) J Fitch-Heyes 10-12	A Thornton	92	
305	244222-2	TYNRON DOON 16 (G Wiltshire) Mrs N Macauley 10-12	R Davis	BB	
306	P-42P05	ABSOLUTLEY FOXED 12 (G Chapman) B McMahon 10-7	A Procter	86	
307	303523	PEARLY WHITE 42 (Berkshire Commercial Components Ltd) D Williams 10-7	M Hourigan	86	

BETTING: 9-4 Port In A Storm, 5-2 Tynron Doon, 9-2 Nordic Beat, 5-1 Private Jet, 6-1 Pearly White, 8-1 Absolutley Foxed, 25-1 Captain Tandy.

1992: MILLROUS 10-7 M Foster (11-2) M Pipe 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

PORT IN A STORM beat TYNRON DOON (4lb better all) 5l in a 9-runner conditional jockeys' selling hurdle at Leicester on penultimate start (2m, soft). NORDIC BEAT 12¾l 6th of 15 to Summer Flower in a selling hurdle at Market Rasen on penultimate start (2m 1f 110yd, good). PRIVATE JET 3½l 2nd of 13 to Armeshocker in a claiming novice hurdle at Leicester on penultimate start (2m, good to soft). TYNRON DOON's best effort came when 3l 2nd of 8 to Tudor Da Samba in a selling hurdle at Chepstow last season (2m 4f 110yd, soft). ABSOLUTELY FOXED put up best recent effort when 1½l 2nd of 17 to Daringly in a selling hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good), with PEARLY WHITE (same terms) 3½l 3rd, PORT IN A STORM (10lb worse off) 3l 4th and NORDIC BEAT (same terms) 14l 10th.
Selection: TYNRON DOON

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,B,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 ... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell, P — pulled up, U — unseated rider, B — brought down, S — slipped up, R — refused, D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F fi 1cl, (B — blinkers, V — visor, H — hood, E — Eyeshield, C — course winner, D — distance winner, CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard, G — good, S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

2.00 CHRIS THORNTON SILVER FOX HANDICAP CHASE
(£5,605: 3m 1f) (8 runners)

401	232-131	DO BE BRIEF 14 (B,C,&S) (E Brown) Mrs J Pitman 9-11-10	L O'Hare (7)	BB	
402	1U1214-	BIT OF A CLOWN 287 (CD,F,S,S) (J Sumner) Mrs I McKie 10-11-3	L Harvey	88	
403	2P326-5	BROMPTON ROAD 14 (S,S) (J Percy) R Lee 10-11-2	A Maguire	93	
404	100-232	CYTHERE 12 (CD,S) (K Carr) J Gifford 9-11-1	P Hide (3)	88	
405	4-83534	SIRRAH JAY 28 (F,S,S) (Elias Gale Racing) K Burke 13-10-13	T Jenks (5)	91	
406	0011-62	BOWL OF OATS 16 (B,C,S) (Mrs A Morley) A Turnell 7-10-11	S McNeill	91	
407	013/121	INVASION 12 (V,CD,F,S,S) (Lady Anne Beatinck) D Brennan 9-10-6	M Brennan	93	
408	41P-685	WOODLANDS GENHIRE 12 (V,CD,F) (Woodlands Ltd) P Pritchard 8-10-0	R Davis (3)	82	

Long handicap: Woodlands Genhire 9-3.

BETTING: 2-1 Do Be Brief, 7-2 Bit Of A Clown, 4-1 Cythere, 6-1 Bowl Of Oats, 7-1 Invasion, 8-1 Brompton Road, 12-1 Sirrah Jay, 25-1 Woodlands Genhire.

1992: BIT OF A CLOWN 9-11-1 L Harvey (2-1 fav) Mrs I McKie 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

DO BE BRIEF beat Camelot Knight 12l in an 11-runner handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m 7f, good), with BROMPTON ROAD (4lb better off) 5½l 5th. BIT OF A CLOWN beat Knight On 1l in a 5-runner handicap over course and distance on penultimate start (soft). CYTHERE 7l 2nd of 9 to Direct in a handicap chase at Chepstow (3m 2f 110y, good to soft). SIRRAH JAY 13¾l 4th of 11 to Indian Tonic in a handicap chase at Ascot (3m 3f, good). BOWL OF OATS 2l 2nd of 10 to Piper O'Drumond in a handicap chase at Leicester (3m, good to soft). INVASION beat Poskim's Path 13½l in a 10-runner handicap chase over course and distance (soft), with WOODLANDS GENHIRE (5lb better off) 15½l beaten 5th.
Selection: DO BE BRIEF

2.30 CHAMPAGNE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,525: 2m 110yd) (5 runners)

501	31-4F22	SPREE CROSS 15 (D,G,S) (P Mason) Mrs D Haine 7-11-10	D Murphy	90	
502	11433-1	REJOINUS 12 (CD,S) (C Galloway) A Stronge 8-10-13	R Garritty	BB	
503	2132/41-	THREEOUTOFFOUR 412 (CD,G,S) (Miss C Brennan) D Brennan 8-10-12	M Brennan	82	
504	11F-321	DOLIKOS 15 (D,S) (Mrs M Gaffney) J Jefferson 6-10-10	M Dwyer	91	
505	046444-	MASTER COMEDY 245 (B,F,S) (Miss J Wilkinson) Miss L Bower 9-10-0	N Williamson	77	

Long handicap: Master Comedy 9-4

BETTING: 6-4 Rejoinus, 5-2 Dolikos, 7-2 Threeoutoffour, 9-2 Spree Cross, 12-1 Master Comedy.

1992: ALKINOR REX 7-11-13 M Perrett (6-4 fav) G Harwood 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

SPREE CROSS 11½l 2nd of 6 to Champagne Lad in a handicap chase at Huntingdon on penultimate start (2m 4f 110yd, good). REJOINUS beat Boston Rowe 5l in a 6-runner handicap chase over course and distance (soft). THREEOUTOFFOUR beat Arthur's Minstrel 9l in an 11-runner novice chase at Wetherby (2m 5f, good). DOLIKOS beat SPREE CROSS (4lb better off) 5l in an 11-runner handicap chase at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). MASTER COMEDY 28½l 4th of 8 to Wingspan in a claiming chase at Plumpton on penultimate start (2m, soft).
Selection: REJOINUS (nap)

3.00 CHRISTMAS CRACKER MARES ONLY NOVICES HURDLE
(£1,866: 2m) (11 runners)

601	0-0	CAPRIRIDHA 40 (Karen Roydon Racing Ltd) S Christian 5-10-10	B Upton	–	
602	3	CARPET SLIPPERS 54 (Mrs D Haine) Mrs D Haine 7-10-10	D Murphy	92	
603	0-60	FLAPPING FREDA 23 (P Goffin) J Jenkins 5-10-10	W J Walsh (7)	–	
604	0-52530	FORTUNE'S GIRL 16 (Million In Mind Partnership) M Hammond 5-10-10	A Maguire	BB	
605	0300	MAKING TIME 13 (D Ambrose) G Humphrey 6-10-10	A Tory	BB	
606	4463-PP	MINFA 18 (BF) (Lord Cavendish) G Richards 5-10-10	R Dunwoody	95	
607	00-0	OZONE LASS 126F (J Lazarolmas) D Brennan 5-10-10	M Brennan	–	
608	320413-	PLACE STEPHANIE 190 (D,BF,S) (Mrs A Pratt) R Rowe 5-10-10	H Davies	–	
609	/OP035	POLLY MINOR 31 (The Witch Racing Club II) G Enright 6-10-10	M Perrett	86	
610		ROMANY TRAVELLER (R Barton) R Barton 5-10-10	W McFarland	–	
611	00-	WHAT DO YOU THINK 288 (J Westrey) N Twiston-Davies 5-10-10	C Llewellyn	–	

BETTING: 9-4 Place Stephanie, 3-1 Fortune's Girl, 4-1 Carpet Slippers, 7-1 Minfa, 10-1 Making Time, 12-1 Polly Minor, What Do You Think, 20-1 others.

1992: EASTER BABY 6-10-10 G McCourt (50-1) P Cundell 17 ran

FORM FOCUS

CARPET SLIPPERS 5l 3rd of 13 to Blazon of Troy in a novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to firm). FLAPPING FREDA 12½l 6th of 23 to Nirvana Prince in a National Hunt flat race at Warwick on penultimate start (2m, good to firm). FORTUNE'S GIRL 30l 7th of 19 to Marchwood in a novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m 110yd, good to soft). Previously, head and 1l 3rd of 9 to Bayefoot in a handicap hurdle at Roscommon (2m, yielding). MAKING TIME's best recent effort came when 7l 3rd of 14 to Dominant Force in a novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, good to firm). MINFA's best effort last season came when 1½l 3rd of 15 to Caithness Prince in a novice hurdle at Carlisle (2m 1f, good). PLACE STEPHANIE 9l 3rd of 18 to The Hasty Earl in a maiden hurdle at Tipperary (2m, yielding).
Selection: FORTUNE'S GIRL

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%
G Harwood	3	5	60.0
D Brennan	17	54	31.5
Mrs J Pitman	13	51	25.5
N Henderson	10	45	22.2
Mrs I McKie	14	65	21.5
D Nicholson	8	51	15.7

JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
M Brennan	17	46	37.0
M Perrett	6	18	33.3
P Hide	3	16	18.8
B McCourt	4	23	17.4
S Smith Eccles	3	18	16.7
R Dunwoody	20	124	16.1

KELSO

THUNDERER

12.10 Ariadler. 12.40 Clyde Ranger. 1.10 Linngate. 1.40 Plenty Crack. 2.10 Just A Light. 2.40 Positive Action. 3.10 Sweet City.

GOING: SOFT, HEAVY PATCHES (HURDLES); SOFT (CHASE) SIS
7.00 PRECAUTIONARY INSPECTION

12.10 PHILIP WILSON NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £2,408: 2m 6f 110yd) (12 runners)

1	0-01	ARIADLER 43 (CD,S) P Cheesbrough 5-11-5	C Grant	BB	
2	834-	BARNEY RUBBLE 286 D Williams 6-10-12	M Moloney	–	
3	-044	DIG DEEPER 16 (S) J J O'Neill 6-10-12	P Niven	95	
4	P	FINNOW QUAY 18 J Oliver 4-10-12	F Perrett (5)	–	
5	0-	MOSSMAN 250 J Barclay 5-10-12	S Turner	–	
6	P4P2	OVER THE ODDS 9 J Wade 4-10-12	D Ryan (7)	79	
7	-065	RALLYING CRY 10 R Allan 5-10-12	B Storey	86	
8	P	RHYMING THOMAS 34 J Adam 5-10-12	J Railton	–	
9		RUSTY BLADE S Leadbetter 4-10-12	R Hodge	–	
10	63	STRONG DEEL 16 W Read 5-10-12	T Reed	87	
11	0	FOLLY FURLONG 10 A Thomson 6-10-7	Mr D Parker (7)	–	
12	00-	PAR-BAR 178 D Eddy 5-10-7	L Wyer	–	

5-2 Ariadler, 3-1 Dig Deeper, 9-2 Strong Deel, 8-1 Barney Rubble, 8-1 others.

12.40 QUEENS HEAD KELSO NOVICES CHASE
(£3,014: 2m 6f 110yd) (16)

1	-R21	ARTHUR'S MINSTREL 16 (F,S,S) P Cheesbrough 6-11-7	P Niven	BB	
2	F-00	BALLYBELL 9 J Gledson 8-11-0	P Williams (5)	–	
3	058-	CLARE COAST 369 J Wade 7-11-0	K Jones	–	
4	300-	CLYDE RANGER 250 (S) M Hammond 6-11-0	C Grant	–	
5	P-	DASTARDLY DALE 282 J Adam 7-11-0	J Railton	–	
6	3P-0	DEEP HAVEN 33 Mrs A Russell 8-11-0	R Hodge	–	
7	3F	FRONT LINE 18 J J O'Neill 6-11-0	L Wyer	98	
8		GARCALL D Whelans 7-11-0	M Moloney	–	
9	F	JINGLIN' GEORDIE 10 Mrs A Russell 5-11-0	L O'Hara	–	
10	465-	KILCOLGAN 380 Mrs J Goodfellow 6-11-0	A Dobbin	–	
11	4/3F-	LOTHIAN PILOT 427 (G) L Lungo 6-11-0	T Reed	85	
12	006-	MAN OF MOREEP 217 J Oliver 8-11-0	F Perrett (5)	–	
13	21R-	THISTLE MONARCH 313 (G,S) B Richards 8-11-0	N Doughty	–	
14	-244	CHARLOTTE'S EMMA 40 (F,G,S) Mrs J Goodfellow 6-10-9	B Storey	–	
15		EASTER OATS R Goldie 6-10-9	A Lamach (3)	–	
16	P45/	REDHALL ROYALE 714 T Robson 9-10-9	Miss P Robson	–	

3-1 Front Line, Arthur's Minstrel, 5-1 Thistle Monarch, Clyde Ranger, 8-1 others.

1.10 PERCY ARMS NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,180: 2m 110yd) (16)

1	-412	LINNGATE 10 (D,BF,G,S) L Lungo 4-11-0	T Reed	BB	
2		CALL THE SHOTS J Wade 4-10-12	K Jones	–	
3		CHIEF MINISTER 81F T Dyer 4-10-12	P Hatley	–	
4	00-	CLAN REEL 210 R Goldie 4-10-12	A Lamach (3)	–	
5	-000	CORSTON RACER 16 Mrs S Bradburne 5-10-12	P Williams (5)	70	
6	004-	HIGHLANDMAN 237 J Haldane 7-10-12	A Orkney	93	
7	000	LONDON HILL 10 Mrs D Thomson 5-10-12	C Dennis	73	
8	0-05	MARCO-PIERRE 34 J Barclay 4-10-12	S Turner	75	
9	35-0	MONTRAVE 16 R Allan 4-10-12	B Storey	88	
10	30-P	STONEY BROOK 43 C Parker 5-10-12	Mr A Parker (7)	–	
11	0-0	THE MAJOR GENERAL 16 G Richards 6-10-12	NON-RUNNER	–	
12	0	TICO GOLD 64 P Cheesbrough 5-10-12	C Grant	–	
13	F4-0	CAMDEN GROVE 16 R McDonald 5-10-7	R Hodge	72	
14	-0U0	SKIDDAW CALYPSO 10 M Barnes 4-10-7	A Dobbin	–	
15	PA/-	TAUVALERA 615 D Swindlehurst 5-10-7	Mr D Swindlehurst	–	
16	0F-5	THE WHIRLIE WEEVIL 43 G Richards 5-10-7	M Moloney	–	

2-1 Lungate, 6-1 The Whirlie Weevil, 8-1 Tico Gold, Montrave, 10-1 others.

1.40 GLASSEDIN SECURITIES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,436: 3m 4f) (7)

1	-042	PLENTY CRACK 8 (CD,G,S) B Macnaught 10-11-10	B Storey	BB
2	112-	TARTAN TYRANT 250 (G,S) G Richards 7-10-9	N Doughty	86
3	13F5	OVER THE DEEL 10 (F,G,S) J Johnson 7-10-8	A Orkney	92
4	4314	OFF THE BRU 43 (V,C,F,G) Mrs S Bradburne 8-10-5	Mr J Bradburne	97
5	1-53	RUN PET RUN 12 (CD,G,S) P Monteith 8-10-3	A Dobbin	92
6	43SF	PINK GIN 12 (F,G,S) M Hammond 6-10-0	C Grant	98
7	P-2P	ABERCROMBY CHIEF 28 (S) J Oliver 8-10-0	T Reed	83

11-4 Run Pet Run, 4-1 Off The Bru, 9-2 Plenty Crack, 5-1 Over The Deel, 6-1 Pink Gin, 8-1 Tartan Tyrant, 20-1 Abercromby Chief.

2.10 PHILIP WILSON NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £2,408: 2m 6f 110yd) (11)

1	P-12	SHAWWELL 38 (G) J Charlton 6-11-5	D J Moffatt (3)	86	
2	5-55	BELLS HILL LAD 34 J Barclay 6-10-12	A Dobbin	80	
3	8-04	JUST A LIGHT 16 L Lungo 5-10-12	T Reed	85	
4	802/	KIRKTON GREY 884 C Parker 6-10-12	B Storey	–	
5	66/0-	PADDY McGRISSEY 405 J Haldane 6-10-12	A Orkney	74	
6	-430	ROYAL SURPRISE 41 P Cheesbrough 6-10-12	Miss P Robson	80	
7	35-0	RUSSIAN CASTLE 41 J Wade 4-10-12	K Jones	86	
8	35-3	SCOTTON BANKS 12 M H Easterby 4-10-12	L Wyer	BB	
9	5-R6	SON OF IRIS 20 Mrs M Reveley 5-10-12	P Niven	–	
10	45/3-	HOWCLEUCH 405 J Oliver 6-10-7	F Perrett (5)	85	
11	5/06	STEPDAUGHTER 10 Mrs D Thomson 7-10-7	C Dennis	–	

9-4 Scotton Banks, 11-4 Shawwell, 6-1 Son Of Iris, 7-1 Howcleuch, 10-1 Bells Hill Lad, 12-1 Just A Light, 14-1 Russian Castle, 16-1 Royal Surprise, 20-1 Kirkton Grey, 25-1 Stepdaughter, 33-1 Paddy Mcgrissey.

2.40 BERT McELRATH MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,339: 2m 1f) (5)

1	UU2U	TERRIBLE GEL 21 (CD,F,S) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-10	P Niven	98
2	1151	POSITIVE ACTION 34 (F,S,S) M Barnes 7-11-6	A Dobbin	BB
3	-F44	BELDINE 16 (F,S,S) P Monteith 8-11-5	A Orkney	93
4	24-6	PURA MONEY 34 (C,F,S,S) G Richards 11-11-5	N Doughty	97
5	-553	SILVER HAZE 10 (D,F,S) J Wade 9-10-10	K Jones	91

13-8 Positive Action, 2-1 Terrible Gel, 9-2 Pura Money, 6-1 Silver Haze, 9-1 Beldine

3.10 TWEEDDALE PRESS GROUP CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,443: 2m 110yd) (9)

1	3154	BAY TERN 33 (CD,F,S,S) T Dyer 7-11-10	A Linton (4)	98
2	53-5	PERSONAL HAZARD 8 (D,S) M H Easterby 4-11-1	J Driscoll (4)	90
3	21-1	IT'S THE PITS 8 (D,G,S) L Lungo 6-11-0 (bar)	F Perrett	98
4	0282	SWEET CITY 35 (CD,S) G Richards 8-10-13	B Harding (4)	98
5	5-54	ALLAGGATE KING 16 (D,S) A Whillans 4-10-13	D Bentley	98
6	1612	WEE WIZARD 9 (D,F,S,S) M Barnes 4-10-9	A Dobbin	96
7	1/25-	MANGROVE MIST 439 (D,F,S) P Monteith 5-10-8	A Lamach	90
8	4162	CHEEKY POT 10 (V,D,F,S) D Smith 5-10-3	P Waggott	98
9	1-0P	ARAGON AYR 41 (D,S) P Monteith 5-10-0	D J Moffatt	BB

5-2 It's The Pits, 7-2 Pallasgate King, 4-1 Wee Wizard, 13-2 Personal Hazard, 8-1 Sweet City, Cheeky Pot, 10-1 Bay Tern, 16-1 Mangrove Mist, 20-1 Aragon Ayr

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley, 31 winners from 98 runners, 31.6%, Mrs J Goodfellow, 10 from 38, 26.3%, G Richards, 33 from 143, 23.1%, R McDonald, 3 from 14, 21.4%, M H Easterby, 6 from 31, 19.4%, P Cheesbrough, 4 from 21, 19%.

JOCKEYS: P Niven, 36 winners from 108 rides, 33.3%, N Doughty, 24 from 83, 28.9%, M Moloney, 13 from 58, 22.4%, C Grant, 20 from 132, 15.2%, A Dobbin, 6 from 42, 14.3%, B Storey, 21 from 148, 14.2%

BLINKERED FIRST TIME. Southwell: 2.20 Lady Westbury, 2.50 Indian Secret.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

12.20 Collector General. 12.50 Beatle Song. 1.20 Upper Grosvenor. 1.50 Hillzah. 2.20 Captain Carat. 2.50 Superlativemaxdmus. 3.20 Eurotwist.

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 6F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

12.20 BUCKINGHAM CLAIMING STAKES
(Div I: 2-Y-O: £3,028: 1m) (13 runners)

1	55	PROGRESSION 19 (S) P Cole 9-0	A Clark (1)	
2	6335	VALIANT MAN 15 (B,S) J Wharton 9-0	J Quinn 12	
3	0	SPRING SENSATION 202 Mrs V Aconley 8-7	D Pears (3) 4	
4	6506	COLLECTOR GENERAL 24 Jimmy FitzGerald 8-6	Paul Eddery 8	
5		SALUTATION C Thaler 8-6	M Carlisle 2	
6	3004	DRAGON MAN 47 P Haslam 8-6	Micaki Howarth (7) 13	
7	00	GARLIC RISK 23 Pat Mitchell 8-6	A Bond (5) 10	
8	00	GOOD EVANS 15 C Booth 7-13	L Charnock 6	
9	0000	MILLY'S PET 100 (BF) C Hill 7-13	D Biggs 3	
10	0	PREPACE LADY 15 J Eyre 7-13	N Adams 1	
11	6430	SWAGGER LADY 122 D Nicholls 7-13	D Wright (5) 5	
12	000	DENTON QUEEN 42 M Dods 7-11	Dale Gibson 7	
13	5	LITTLE MINER 38 S Palling 7-9	M Baird (7) 9	

3-1 Valiant Man, 5-1 Collector General, Dragon Man, 12-1 Progression, 14-1 Little Miner, Swagger Lady, 16-1 Milly's Pet, Salutation, 25-1 others.

12.50 FITZWILLIAM LIMITED STAKES
(£3,158: 6f) (16)

| | | | |

Track record which needs improving

LEADERSHIP IN SPORT

David Miller says that underneath its medal-winning gloss British athletics has serious problems in areas of organisation and finance which threaten its stability



Gunnell cloaked in the flag of success after her win in the 400 metres hurdles at the world championships in Stuttgart. Photograph: George Herringshaw

The face of British athletics presents a stark irony: at present the most successful of any big sport on the field, yet gold medal winner for administrative incompetence. Athletics holds the all-comers record for post-war mismanagement, in spite of having just come through a golden era of international performance and domestic income.

A succession of weak, bickering or ignorant chairmen of the national federation, given the luxury of a sport spectacularly outperforming all but the United States and the totalitarian communist states, instead of consolidating the advantages have allowed the administration to drift rudderless: domestically fragmented, internationally ignored or, worse, rejected, the headquarters of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) having left London for Monte Carlo.

The eminence of the shop window, containing Christie, Jackson, Gunnell, Jarrett, Regis, Grindley and Robb, is illusory. Behind the scenes, Peter Radford, the former Olympic bronze medal-winner who on February 1 becomes the first executive chairman of the British Athletic Federation (BAF), has inherited a building that needs rewiring and plumbing, and he is about to discover that the organisation probably cannot meet its commitments. The BAF has no immediate solution to a drastic drop in television income.

Additionally, Radford is confronted with a club structure in which the human fabric is on the point of collapse; with the absence of a financial development programme to find alternative income; with an underfunded coaching framework in which the chief coach, Frank Dick, may be driven out of athletics — like Geoff Dyson 40 years ago — into the commercial arena; and with Britain's voice on the international administrative stage reduced to a whisper.

Asked if there are problems, Radford bravely replies: "I'm very upbeat. We *are* going through a golden period, no longer claiming to be amateur in any way, striving to show we are not a one-shot sport."

Yet in the next breath, Radford is admitting to the uncomfortable dilemma that faces athletics worldwide, as much in America and Germany as in Britain: that athletics is, realistically, neither amateur nor properly professional.

Even though the sport has been generating vast income since the inauguration of the first world championships in 1983 — these are now biennial — the problem is that, because a full men's and women's athletics meeting has so many events and competitors, respectively between 20 and 50 and 300 and 400, only a handful makes money.

In Dick's opinion, fewer than 20 competitors in Britain pay the mortgage from athletics earnings. In contrast, almost 50 per cent of the British team at Barcelona, counting all sports, were in debt over a four-year period. This gives Radford, and those responsible for holding the framework together, another extensive and delicate problem: the social/economic fragility of the majority aspiring to international competition. Radford won his Olympic 100-metres bronze medal in Rome in 1960.

> 'The eminence of the shop window, with Christie, Jackson Gunnell, Jarrett Regis, Grindley and Robb, is illusory.'

While domestic administrators such as Jack Crump, Arthur Gold, Marea Hartman, Bill Evans and Ewan Murray continued the forlorn muddle at home, Radford was off making a career in sports science in Canada and then, for the past 18 years, in Glasgow. With the ageing of Lord Exeter, grand Olympian and aristocrat, British authority declined, never mind the continuing guidance at the IAAF's London headquarters of Fred Holder and then John Holt.

The difficulty for the most recent generation of international British administrators has been that they came at the end of a century of what was, and what had been felt to be, natural superiority. Britain *knew* how to do it.

A consequence of this was that the collective British character was seen by some foreigners as slightly arrogant. So-called "effortless superiority", real or assumed, resulted in an incapacity — which I have observed among countless ambassadors and consuls during 40 years travelling in sport — or even an unwillingness to try properly to understand foreigners. This incapacity remained evident, it has to be said, in Manchester's bids to host the Olympic Games.

In all sports the only two administrators who, in my experience, have understood how to relate to any foreigner, of whatever colour or nationality, have been Dick Palmer, general secretary of the British Olympic Association (BOA), who matured through university sport, and Andy Norman, the brusque former Bromley police sergeant.

Though having certain shortcomings, which he would acknowledge, Norman, the events promotion officer of the BAF, has exerted more influence on behalf of British sport in the past 15 years than any but Palmer, or the present BOA chairman and former international badminton president, Craig Reedie, and, for a while, Charles Palmer, the deposed BOA chairman.

Norman, free of social presumptions, has understood how to talk to people, African, Asian or American, on common ground. If Radford is wise he will seek to utilise Norman's connections to the fullest degree, in what will be a sizeable struggle to keep British athletics on the rails.

It is significant that Norman, for all his abrasiveness at times, is one of the few to have maintained an open line to the powerful, often egocentric Primo Nebiolo, president of the IAAF.

The more moderate Holt (now displaced) and Robert Stinson, the present treasurer of the IAAF, each attempting to oppose Nebiolo in old-fashioned conventional ways, have found their influence has been eroded.

As Radford says: "A lot of what is going on now [internationally] arises because of historic resentment that Britain thinks it is a big shot. We have been seen as intimidatory, codifying the rules, the international nanny.

"In the past we [formerly the BAAB] have been singing from different hymn sheets. We have to be on a single track. The new BAF will never be a dictatorship, but we must leave no holes."

It is essential, Radford says, that the BAF learns to communicate with the major agencies: the European Athletics Association, the IAAF, the BOA, the International Olympic Committee.

Radford recognises Norman's importance to the BAF's organisation, in the wake of ITV's decision to extend their £2 million-a-year contract, in operation since 1985, for only one year at £1 million. "We've been slow to diversify our income," Radford says. "We have to secure the future, especially for our clubs. The continuing stability of athletics is not carved in tablets of stone."

The appointment of a marketing manager, he says, must be a priority. While Norman's chief responsibility is for marketing competitive events, there is a need to sell the sport on a day-to-day basis with promotional projects. Existing sponsors will dry up in conjunction with the reduction of television exposure.

Radford recognises that athletics may face a future not of expanding events but contracting: that big promoters will dictate a preference for events that "sell" to the public; that for example men's and women's triple jump may not survive, nor the hammer nor walking events which promoters attempt to get out of the way before lunch.

How many spectators want to pay to watch that almost mythological Olympic event, the discus, compared with the more visual, dramatic javelin? In 20 years the historic discus could become redundant.

"Our sport has desperately needed an executive chairman," Dick says. "We need a powerful marketing director *and* development director. The future of the sport lies in the decisions of today for the effects of tomorrow: not in bureaucratic control and limitation of the BAF staff, but in freedom and expansion."

Dick, whose expertise in maximising people's ability is widely in demand outside athletics — even in the industrial field — has been driven close to resignation by petty restrictions, by salary ceilings that have obliged him to supplement his income with freelance work.

He resents attempted curtailing of comments to the press. He does not forget that, as chief British coach, he only obtained accreditation to the Commonwealth Games of 1990 in Auckland through the collaboration of the Falkland Islands.

As sponsors become more discerning, Dick says, athletics has to generate independent funding. An "institute of excellence" is urgently needed to exploit the technology that has become fundamental to the performance of potential medalists. "All teams, Olympic, world or European championship, must have professional full-time management," Dick argues. "Looking after top performers such as Christie and Gunnell is not just a matter of turning up at London airport on the day of departure.

"With growing athletes, you need time and patience, as with Coe. You need an integrated, individual support plan — doctor, physiotherapist, sports psychologist, coach, bio-mechanic. There


Norman: influential

has to be a synthesis of the needs of each athlete. Hi-tech and hi-touch."

Dick is particularly concerned with the growing gap in performance opportunity between school level and the elite grand prix circuit. There are rungs on the ladder of progress that are missing, he says, emphasised by the decline in school sport, and developing athletes need that ladder.

The sport must find more graded competition, which may have to be achieved artificially by events, for example, between top women and male youths, or by the re-creation of redundant trophy competitions, such as the Sward.

Radford is equally conscious of the competitive need with the parallel necessity not to seduce enthusiastic athletes into believing there is an open-ended commercial living awaiting the successful. The sport is attempting to support a professional superstructure on an amateur-based foundation.

"There is the risk," Radford warns, "that ten years down the road some athletes will end their careers with no prospects [in sport or in normal life]. Our sport is not so healthy when you remember that athletes are people. The favour that athletics did me was to convince me I had to find a [alternative] career.

"It is good to have competitors convinced that they will become the best in the world, but should we give them the message that they may not be? We need a more long-term, caring attitude." Does Roger Black, the former European 400 metre champion, now regret terminating his medical career to become a full-time athlete?

Radford is alarmed at the state of grass-roots clubs, so dependent on a vulnerable, voluntary staff of two or three loyalists, who leave the office, grab a bite to eat, and hurry off to keep their club afloat. "I need a sense of humility," Radford says.

This recalls the comment of Sebastian Coe, when reproved by Evans, the British Board chairman, for not recognising who ran British athletics. "If you ever find out," Coe said, "do let us know."

TOMORROW

The paradoxes within rugby union

Whitaker spurred by treble champion challenge

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

MICHAEL Whitaker, the world's leading show jumper, heads a a high-quality field for the Olympia show-jumping championships, which begin in the Grand Hall, Olympia, today. The two richest classes at the five-day event are the Volvo World Cup qualifier on Saturday afternoon and the P&O European Ferries Grand Prix on Monday.

The show has attracted Britain's 17 leading riders and three champions from abroad: Ludger Beerbaum, of Germany, the Olympic gold medal winner, Eric Navet, of France, the world champion, and Willi Melliger, of Switzerland, the holder of the European title.

Fittingly, the rewards at Olympia will be the richest so far: the prize fund is £165,000. The show is the second leg of the new Grand Slam series, which offers £408,000 to the rider who wins all four Volvo qualifiers in the series.

Franke Sloothaak, of Germany, is the only rider in contention for the overall prize after winning the first leg in Berlin last month, but there is £200,000 on offer for winning three qualifiers and £40,000 for success in two. The other shows in the Grand Slam are Brussels and Paris in the spring.

Whitaker comes to Olympia in buoyant mood. His win in the Bordeaux qualifier earlier this month on Everest Twostep — the horse he will ride on Saturday — has put him in sixth place in the European league for the World Cup. The top 19 qualify for the final in Holland in April. Whitaker's older brother, John, a dual winner of the World Cup, is 22nd but is likely to improve his placing this week.

Though Milton is still sidelined by an injury and will not compete again until the end of February, Whitaker has two able substitutes. Everest Gammon, on which he was fourth in Berlin, has been rested for the past two weeks in preparation for the Volvo qualifier. He is also riding Grannusch, who won a good class in Paris last week. Whitaker will decide during the show which horse he rides in the Grand Prix.

David Broome, who has competed at each of the 21 Olympia shows, Nick Skelton, the leading rider at the Show last year, and John Popeley, fresh from his successful North American tour, are among the other British riders competing. Ireland is represented by Eddie Macken, who has accepted a last-minute invitation to take part.

Beerbaum and Sloothaak pose the main threat to the British riders. Beerbaum is riding Almox Ratina, on which he won the qualifier last year before going on to win the World Cup. Sloothaak, though resting his top horse, Weihaiwej, has two on-form contenders in San Patrignano Corrado and Dorina.

Much of Olympia's popularity with the riders and public comes from its special formula which mixes international jumping classes with a variety of fun events. This year is no exception. The Musical Drive by The King's Troop, RHA, and the flying Csikos riders from Hungary are among the attractions that punctuate the competition.

RANKINGS: European League for the Volvo World Cup: 1, J Lansink (Hol) 85pt. 2, B Grandjean (Switz) 61; equal 3, L McNaught-Manch (Switz) and F Sloothaak (Ger) 45. Leading Briton: 6, M Whitaker 38

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off-p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	20	60	good	powder	fair	cloud	1	14/12
Good piste skiing on quiet slopes								
Mayrhofen	10	30	fair	varied	closed	cloud	2	15/12
Reasonably good skiing available								
Obergurgl	35	75	good	powder	fair	cloud	2	14/12
Generally good skiing some icy patches lower down								
St Anton	25	115	fair	varied	fair	fine	3	14/12
Excellent skiing on north facing slopes								
FRANCE								
Avoriaz	50	70	good	powder	fair	cloud	1	14/12
Recent snowfall providing great skiing								
La Plagne	80	170	good	powder	good	cloud	1	14/12
Wonderful skiing both on and off piste								
Méribel	40	125	good	powder	good	snow	1	15/12
Fresh snow providing excellent skiing								
Tignes	65	250	good	powder	good	fair	7	14/12
Glorious skiing under blue skies most of the day								
Val d'Isère	70	125	good	powder	good	cloud	4	14/12
Excellent skiing conditions everywhere								
ITALY								
Cervinia	40	300	good	powder	good	cloud	2	14/12
Good skiing on quiet slopes								
SWITZERLAND								
Davos	40	110	good	powder	good	cloud	4	14/12
Very good skiing on all open areas								
Verbier	20	125	good	powder	fair	cloud	0	14/12
Mont fort excellent if a little windy								
UNITED STATES								
Aspen	75	80	good	varied	good	fine	3	14/12
Good skiing on all open runs								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

Record of changing times

LONG before Coe and Ovett, or Wooderson for that matter, Britain knew how to succeed at 800 metres. Albert Hill, Douglas Lowe and Thomas Hampson took the four Olympic titles from 1920 to 1932. Competitors may have been less specifically prepared in the Twenties — the pole vault world record holder, Charles Hoff, reached the 800 metres final in 1924 — but the bruises of defeat were felt as hard as they are today.

Lowe won the 1924 Olympic gold and, four years later, added a second. The interim years saw the rise of Otto Peltzer, the German, who set world records for 880 yards and 1,500 metres but who went into the 1928 Olympics carrying an injury. Peltzer failed to qualify for the final and Lowe tried to ease the blow by sending his rival a letter some days later.

"Dear Dr Peltzer," Lowe's letter read, "the British half-milers who have competed with you in the past feel duty-bound to send you their deepest sympathy for the injury that prevented you from showing your best form in the Olympic Games.

"We realise what sadness this must have caused you, but your sense of bitterness is fully shared not only by your compatriots but by all British sportsmen." As Roberto Quercetani observes in his

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

book *Wizards of the Middle Distances: a history of the 800 metres*: "One has to conclude that times, in every sense of the word, have changed."

Lowe's best time was 1min 51.2sec, nearly 10 seconds slower than Coe would run 53 years later for a world record of 1:41.73. Statistics are inevitable in any athletics book and Quercetani's work is more a hard session than an easy run through history.

However, there is some portrait building of heroes from a bygone age, and some anecdotal cheer. For example, you will learn that Peltzer once wore his shorts inside out for an 880 yards final at Stamford Bridge after being told by an official in an earlier round that his kit was inappropriate, and the German team sent to compete in the AAA championships of 1926 was refused permission to train at Stamford Bridge, the competition venue, but were redirected to Paddington, where they were charged — 2d per athlete.

Wizards of the Middle Distances: a history of the 800 metres, by Roberto Quercetani and Nejat Kok, from Sportsbooks, PO Box 171c, Esher, Surrey KT10 0YP, price £23.90.

DAVID POWELL

England agree tour dates

ENGLAND'S rugby union tour to South Africa next year crams eight matches into a 25-day spell that includes two internationals. England, the only home nation to tour South Africa before the 1995 World Cup, kick off against Free State in Bloemfontein on May 18.

Geoff Cooke's party will be particularly interested in exploring the conditions at Durban and Cape Town. In 1995 they play the qualifiers from America and then Western Samoa in Durban and their quarter-final should be in Cape Town.

The tour was organised as soon as South Africa was confirmed as the venue for the World Cup, but England did not agree with the original fixture list as it contained too much switching between sea-level and the venues at 6,000 feet. However, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) have successfully insisted that going back and forth between different altitudes should be kept to a minimum.

In the important last three weeks of the tour England will have a 12-day spell at high level to acclimatise themselves for the first international in Pretoria on June 4, before returning to the coast for the second international at Cape Town a week later.

This is a contrast to the tour ten years ago, when the team spent three weeks on the coast before going to the thin air of high-level Johannesburg, where they suffered a record 35-9 defeat. Don Rutherford, the RFU technical director, said: "It is far better to work down from altitude to sea-level."

Richard Hill, the former England captain, was yesterday dropped from the Bath side to play Wasps in a Pilkington Cup fourth round tie at the Recreation Ground on Saturday. Hill, who retires at the end of the season, was rested for the League win over London Irish last week. Ian Sanders, who stood in for him at scrum half, has retained his place. "I'm delighted to be selected," Sanders said. "I was hopeful they would stick with me, but you can never be too sure."

Cardiff have written to Newbridge over the eye injury received by Andrew Moore, their former Oxford University scrum-half, during the match between the two clubs on December 5.

Moore is out of action until the New Year and alleges an attempt at eye- gouging, but Newbridge have already stated that, after watching a video of the incident, they have found no evidence of deliberate foul play. Cardiff, however, still want some action to be taken by the Gwent club.

ENGLAND ITINERARY: May: 18, Free State (at Bloemfontein);21, Natal (Durban);25, Western Transvaal (Potchefstroom), 28, Transvaal (Johannesburg). 31, South Africa B (Kimberley). June: 4, First international (Pretoria); 7, Eastern Province (Port Elizabeth); 11, Second international (Cape Town)

هكذا من الأصل

BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast (33239)
7.00 Breakfast News (97925871)
8.05 Kilroy. Studio discussion on a topical subject (s) (4560158) **9.45 Newshound**. Current affairs quiz, presented by Ross King (s) (4111974)
10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1214806) **10.05 Playdays** (r) (s) (3886351)
10.30 Good Morning ... with Anne and Nick ... Weekday magazine series presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen (15018351)
12.15 Pebble Mill. Alan Titchmarsh welcomes Richard Clayderman (s) (9328177) **12.55 Regional News** and weather (97834644)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (60210)
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (62212457) **1.50 XYZ**. George Marshall's letter-based quiz game (s) (31928623)
2.15 FILM: The Letter (1940, b/w) starring Bette Davis and Herbert Marshall. Drama, based on a W. Somerset Maugham novel, about a woman who shoots her lover, claiming self-defence. But then the man's widow produces an incriminating piece of evidence that can be bought for a price. Directed by William Wyler (960210)
3.50 Blinky Bill. Koala bear cartoon capers (s) (1184332) **4.15 Get Your Own Back**. Messy game show (s) (4433622) **4.30 The Boot Street Band**. The final episode of the comedy drama. (Ceefax) (s) (8388887)
4.55 Newsround (8080448) **5.05 Blue Peter**. (Ceefax) (s) (2932185)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) (834697). **Northern Ireland:** Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. (Ceefax) Weather (535)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (887). **Northern Ireland:** Neighbours
7.00 Top of the Pops with Tony Dortie. (Ceefax) (s) (3806)
7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (s) (871)
8.00 CHOICE **Life in the Freezer: The Big Freeze.** (Ceefax) (s) (6326)
8.30 Goodnight Sweetheart. Comedy series starring Nicholas Lyndhurst as a romantic time-travelling television repair man (Ceefax) (s) (1061)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (3697)



Cage and Cher in a passionate tale (9.30pm)

9.30 FILM: Moonstruck (1987) starring Cher, Nicolas Cage and Olympia Dukakis. Romantic comedy about a widow in a close-knit Italian-American community who agrees to marry an older man only to fall for his younger, debonair brother. Directed by Norman Jewison. (Ceefax) (269429). **Wales:** BBC Wales Arts Awards 10.45 Film: Moonstruck 12.25am Showjumping 1.05-1.55 Spenser For Hire
11.10 International Showjumping from the Grand Hall, Olympia, introduced by David Vine. The commentators are Stephen Hadley and Michael Tucker (s) (697968)
11.50 Spenser For Hire. Boston-based private detective dramas (s) (759887). **Northern Ireland** (to 12.40am): Depeche Mode
12.40am Weather (3698271). Ends at **12.45**
2.15-3.30 BBC Select: Executive Business Club. Scrambled (42123) **3.00 RCN Nursing Update** (76611)

BBC2

6.55 FILM: The Falcon in Hollywood (1944, b/w) starring Tom Conway as the suave gentleman detective. Directed by Gordon Douglas (6588784)
8.00 Breakfast News. (Ceefax) (2285239)
8.15 Westminster Daily (9133061)
9.00 FILM: The Velvet Touch (1948, b/w). A drama starring Rosalind Russell, directed by John Cage (15424719) **10.35 FILM: My Favourite Spy** (1942, b/w) starring Kay Kyser. Second World War comedy directed by Tay Garnett (1970351)
12.00 Play Chess! (r) (3714210) **12.10 A Fisherman's Diary** (r) (8078790) **12.40 Glynn Christian's Serendipity** (r) (61974790) **12.50 The Allotment Show** in Spennymoor (r) (2928581) **1.20 Greenclaws** (r) (63163351) **1.35 The Story of English Furniture**. Victorian (r) (20974210)
2.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (68947351) **2.05 The First Noels**. History of carols (r) (27168581) **2.20 Weather Watch**. Tornadoes. (Ceefax) (s) (68852239) **2.30 The Third Age**. A gay couple talk about retirement (s) (448)
3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (9710142) **3.05 Westminster Live**. (Ceefax) (5607546) **3.50 News** (Ceefax) and weather (1010968)
4.00 Catchword. Paul Coia's word game (s) (500) **4.30 Women Talking** to Alan Clark (s) (784)
5.00 Today's the Day. Nostalgia quiz (s) (8784)
5.30 From the Edge. Arts, politics and news from a disabled viewpoint (284)
6.00 FILM: Bonanza – The Next Generation (1988) starring John Ireland and Robert Fuller. Western drama spin-off from the popular television series. Directed by William F. Claxton (59719)
7.30 First Sight. Current affairs (413). **Wales:** Week In Week Out; **East:** Matter of Fact; **Midlands:** Midlands Report; **North, North-east, North-west:** Close Up North; **South:** Southern Eye; **South-west:** Close Up; **West:** Close Up West
8.00 A Cook's Tour of France II. A visit to the Languedoc-Roussillon region. (Ceefax) (s) (4968)
8.30 Top Gear. Includes a report from the Dubai motor show. (Ceefax) (s) (9603)
9.00 Rab C. Nesbitt. More street-wise humour from the string-vested philosopher. (Ceefax) (s) (1239)
9.30 CHOICE **Blood and Belonging: Mirror, Mirror.** (Ceefax) (s) (605887)



Portrait of Sister Wendy Beckett (10.20pm)

10.20 Sister Wendy's Odyssey. Edinburgh's art galleries (r). (Ceefax) (693239)
10.30 Newsnight. (Ceefax) (623603)
11.15 The Late Show with Alasdair Gray, Will Self, Iain Banks and Kathy Acker (r) (s) (687581)
11.55 Weather (300210)
12.00 FILM: The Curse of the Cat People (1944, b/w) starring Simone Simon and Kent Smith. A chiller directed by Gunther von Fritsch and Robert Wise (8822017). Ends **1.15**

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CHOICE

Blood and Belonging
BBC2, 9.30pm

Michael Ignatieff concludes his stimulating appraisal of modern nationalism in Northern Ireland. Ulster nationalism is often associated with the Catholic side. But Ignatieff examines the nationalism, no less fierce, of the Protestant loyalists. It is a story shot through with paradox. On the mainland, Britishness stands for tolerance and the rule of law. In Northern Ireland it means burning effigies of the Pope and settling arguments with force. At a paramilitary funeral thousands of people who loathe violence pay their respects to a gunman. Ignatieff points out that King Billy, the founding father of Irish loyalism, was a Dutchman who spoke little English and had little interest in Ulster. But as with so many other things in the province, the myth is stronger than the facts.



Reeves, O'Hara begin a doomed affair (C4, 10.00pm)

The Bridge
Channel 4, 10.00pm

A handsomely photographed film by a debut director Sydney MacCartney charts a doomed affair between the painter Philip Wilson Steer and a young married woman. It is 1897, the year of Queen Victoria's Jubilee. Isobel Hetherington (Saskia Reeves) is staying in Suffolk with her three children. Steer (David O'Hara) has gone there to paint. Isobel, who is trapped in a loveless marriage to a city businessman, becomes a subject for Steer's canvas and then his mistress. But the Victorian moral disapproval proves overwhelming. It is a slight and low-key story lifted by effective use of the East Anglian landscape and a glowing performance by Reeves, one of our best young actresses.

The Plague
Channel 4, 9.00pm

The impressive series on the development of Aids brings the story up to date and concludes on an inevitably pessimistic note. Despite the best efforts of scientists, prevention and cure seem as elusive as ever. Indeed medical research too often degenerates into a squalid scoring of points. Countries once thought immune, such as Thailand and India, are counting cases of HIV in their thousands, if not millions. Meanwhile anti-Aids prejudice shows no sign of abating. Last year the press had a field day with Roy Cornes, a haemophiliac who infected four women after being diagnosed HIV positive. "Aids maniac on killer sex spree" ran one headline. Interviewed for the film, Cornes offers a less sensational version.

Life in the Freezer: The Big Freeze
BBC1, 8.00pm

Winter comes to Antarctica, turning the continent into a gale-swept wilderness with temperatures dropping to minus 70 degrees. Sir David Attenborough is the only visible human being. Most of the animals have headed north. Among the few to remain are Weddell seals, insulated against the cold by layers of blubber and thick skins. The seals go underwater for food and shelter and the cameras go with them. The only other species braving the merciless winter is the emperor penguin. Thousands of them huddle together for survival in darkness broken only by Aurora Australis, the southern lights. It is the chance for yet more tremendous footage.

Peter Waymark

ITV LONDON

6.00 GMTV. Early morning news and entertainment presented by Michael Wilson, Eamonn Holmes and Lorraine Kelly (928187)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep. Game show set in a supermarket (s) (9014887) **9.55 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (3799871)
10.00 The Time ... The Place ... Topical discussion chaired by John Stapleton (s) (7376790)
10.35 This Morning. Weekday magazine (15002790) **12.20 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (9046142)
12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (2019887)
12.55 Emmerdale. A repeat of Tuesday's episode. (Teletext) (2027806) **1.25 Home and Away**. Australian family drama. (Teletext) (26473055) **1.55 A Country Practice**. Medical drama (s) (14419072)
2.20 TV Weekly introduced by Eamonn Holmes (s) (17705142) **2.50 The Young Doctors**. Australian hospital drama (5883806)
3.20 ITN News headlines (9890332) **3.25 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (9899603)
3.30 Tots TV (s) (3471852) **3.40 The Riddlers** (1001210) **3.50 Garfield's Thanksgiving** (1006500) **4.15 Wolf It**. Adventures of a pair of wolves (911429) **4.45 Bad Influence**. Computer game reviews (s) (8208210)
5.10 Home and Away (r). (Teletext) (5087054)
5.40 Early Evening News (Teletext) and weather (531603)
6.00 London Tonight (Teletext) (67516)
7.00 Emmerdale. Drama serial set in the Yorkshire Dales. (Teletext) (8974)
7.30 The Big Story investigated by Dermot Murnaghan (239)
8.00 The Bill: Death of a Ladies Man. After a wife reports her husband missing DS Greig and PC Croft uncover a very complicated life. (Teletext) (7622)
8.30 The Upper Hand. The first of a two-part story in which Charlie believes his mid-life crisis is serious enough for him to consider re-marrying (s) (3429)



Victoria Principal talks about money (9.00pm)

9.00 Hollywood Women. The third of a four-part series in which Hollywood women, including Victoria Principal, talk frankly about their lives. (Teletext) (s) (2887)
10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (32332) **10.30 London Tonight** (Teletext) and weather (627429)
10.40 Big City. A guide to the capital's entertainment scene (902622)
11.15 Going Underground: A Bright Hope for Mankind. Drama about an elderly couple caught in the capital's Christmas shopping rush. Starring Betty Marsden and Frank Middlemass (s) (118351)
11.40 FILM: Vampires of Venice (1988) starring Klaus Kinski and Donald Pleasence. Chiller set in a Venetian palace housing the spirit of Nosferatu. Directed by Augusto Caminito (717871)
1.10am Donahue. A discussion on penile plastic surgery (8511185)
2.00 The Little Picture Show. Film and video reviews (r) (51185)
3.00 Quiz Night. Pub and club competition (65497)
3.30 America's Top Ten (r) (s) (12562)
4.00 Entertainment UK. Leisure time guide (r) (s) (75524)
5.00 Riviera. French drama serial (57098)
5.30 News (79659). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.30 Ulysses 31. Animated science fiction adventures (r) (49239)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (56061)
9.00 You Bet Your Life. American game show hosted by Bill Cosby (r) (s) (46581)
9.30 Profiles of Nature: The Unpredictable Prairie. Walter and Myrna Berlet film the rich variety of wildlife that inhabits the prairie lands of North America (29581)
10.30 All The Rivers Run II. The final episode of the Australian drama serial. Starring John Waters, Parker Stevenson and Nikki Coghill (r) (s) (1372332)
11.25 Sandman. Sand animation by Eliot Noyer Jr (8877968)
11.30 Blood, Sweat and Glory. The series on the history of sport continues with a look at American football and basketball (r) (5500)
12.00 House To House. Maya Evan's Westminster magazine (39245)
12.30 Sesame Street. Entertaining pre-school learning series (85603)
1.30 Alfred J. Kwak. Animated adventures of a musical duck (r) (76210)
2.00 FILM: You'll Never Get Rich (1941, b/w) starring Fred Astaire and Rita Hayworth. A Cole Porter musical about a choreographer who is drafted into the army, thereby threatening a dancing partnership with a chorus girl. Directed by Sidney Lanfield (970697)
3.35 FILM: Brideless Groom (1947, b/w) starring the Three Stooges who are on the look out for wives in order to inherit a rich uncle's estate (1009697)
3.55 The Feast of Christmas. Paul Levy with alternative Christmas puddings (r). (Teletext) (5967245)
4.30 Fifteen-To-One. Fast-moving general knowledge knock out quiz. The question-master is William G. Stewart. (Teletext) (s) (852)
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. The guest is Dr Raymond Moode, a man who claims he can speak to the dead. (Teletext) (s) (1903158)
5.50 Laurel and Hardy. Animated version of the comic duo (976413)
6.00 Trash Talk. Albert "Trix" Thompson and Tessa Langmead visit Los Angeles as the Raiders prepare to entertain the Seattle Seahawks (245)
6.30 Gamesmaster. Computer games show. With Dexter Fletcher and Patrick Moore (s) (697)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (808500)
7.50 Peace Before Christmas? A viewer's personal opinion on the situation in Northern Ireland. (Teletext) (588332)
8.00 Our House. A film in which children explain how homelessness affects them (r) (5264)
8.30 Wildshots. Chris Packham's series on wildlife photography continues with advice on filming water and the things in it. (Teletext) (s) (1871)



HIV positive Roy Cornes with his wife (9.00pm)

9.00 CHOICE **The Plague.** (Teletext) (5559)
10.00 CHOICE **Film: The Bridge** (1990). (Teletext) (171061)
11.55 Sex Talk. Mark Chase and his guests discuss monogamy. Is it workable? (r) (188167)
12.40am Dispatches. A repeat of yesterday's programme about the Government's plans for the education system (2131433)
1.25 Trash Talk. As 6.00pm (9259369). Ends at **1.55**

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and **MW. 4.00am** Bruno Brookes (**FM** only) **7.00** Mark Goodier **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.30pm** Newsbeat **12.45** Jakki Brambles **3.00** Steve Wright in the Afternoon **6.00** News '93 **6.30** Evening Session **9.00** The Guest List **10.00** Mark Radcliffe **12.00-4.00am** Lynn Parsons (**FM** only)

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **5.00am** Sarah Kennedy **6.15** Pause for Thought **7.05** Wake Up to Wogan **9.15** Pause for Thought **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Gloria Hunniford **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** The Queen of Romance, by Stephen Sheridan With *Birds of a Feather*'s Lesley Joseph as pulp novelist Angela Temple **7.30** Wally Whyton **9.00** Paul Jones **9.45** Gloria Gaynor. Featuring the London Community Gospel Choir, vintage records from the 1940s and 1950s, and American stars Billy and Sarah Gaines **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden with Night Ride **3.00-5.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5

6.00am World Service **6.30** Morning Edition with Michele Stephens **9.00** Dilemmas **10.25** Johnnie Walker with the AM Alternative **12.30pm** Writers' Weekly (r) **1.00** News and Sport **1.10** The Crunch **2.30** BFBS Worldwide **4.05** John Inverdale's Drive-In **6.30** Box 13 **7.15** 101 Dalmations: See Choice **7.30** Formula Five **8.00** Vibe! **9.30** The Woman in Black: A ghost story by Susan Hill *(2/4)* **10.10** Eastern Beat **12.00-12.10am** News, Sport

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **GMT. 4.30am** BBC English **4.45** News and Press Review in German **5.00** Morgenmagazin. Tips für Touristen **5.30** Europe Today **6.00** World News **6.15** The World Today **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** Newsdesk **7.30** Network UK **8.00** World News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Good Books **8.30** John Peel **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** From Our Own Correspondent **9.30** The Farming World **9.45** Sports Roundup **10.00** News **10.01** Assignment **10.30** The Voices of America **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** BBC English **11.45** Mittagsmagazin **Noon** News **12.10pm** Words of Faith **12.15** Multitrack 2 **12.45** Sports Roundup **1.00** Newshour **2.00** World News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Off the Shelf: Vintage Thurber **2.45** The Learning World **3.00** World News **3.15** Ray on Record **4.00** World News **4.15** BBC English **4.30** Heute Aktuell **5.00** News **5.05** World Business Report **5.15** BBC English **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Heute Aktuell **7.00** Nachrichten **7.05** Kaleidoskop **8.00** World News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** The World Today **8.30** Europe Today **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.15** Network UK **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** World News **11.05** World Business Report **11.15** Music Review **Midnight** Newsdesk **12.30am** Latins in the USA **1.00** World News **1.05** Outlook **1.30** On the Move **1.45** Global Concerns **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** The Ice Palace **3.00** World News **3.10** British News **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** Focus on Faith **4.00** World News **4.15** Capriccio

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto: Nielsen (Flute Concerto Jennifer Stinton, Scottish Chamber Orchestra under Steuan Bedford) **3.00** Petroc Trelawny **6.00** Margaret Howard **7.00** The Travel Guide: Alastair McKenzie visits Mississippi **8.00** Evening Concert: A dance music special, including Stravinsky's The Soldier's Tale **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00-6.00am** Robert Booth

VIRGIN 1215

6.00am Russ and Jono **10.00** Richard Skinner **1.00pm** Kevin Greening **4.00** Tommy Vance **7.00** Mitch Johnson: featuring Meatloaf **10.00** Nick Abbot **2.00-6.00am** Paul Coyle

ANGLIA

As London except: 5.10-5.40 Blockbusters (5087054) **6.00** Home And Away (248142) **6.25-7.00** Anglia News (983622) **10.30** Anglia News (385581) **11.10** Wideangle (751500) **11.40** Prisoner: Cell Block H (144806) **12.35am** Film: The Killer Inside Me (2336111) **2.20** Wrestling (2398253) **3.00** America's Top 10 (65497) **3.30** The New Music (37340) **4.30** Riviera (77218807) **4.55-5.30** Jobfinder (7496185)

CENTRAL

As London except: 1.55-2.20 Shortland Street (14418072) **2.50-3.20** A Country Practice (5883806) **5.10-5.40** Blockbusters (5087054) **6.00** Home And Away (248142) **6.25** Central News (329081) **6.55-7.00** Life Line (466351) **10.40** Film: Love Among Thieves (71304581) **12.25am** Hollywood Report (6187878) **12.55** The Little Picture Show (2393104) **1.55** 60 Minutes (3807307) **2.50** Raw Power (3952340) **3.50** Quiz Night (14866938) **4.20** Jobfinder (8682185) **5.20-5.30** Asian Eye (8719901)

GRANADA

As London except: 12.55 Home And Away (2027806) **1.25** A Country Practice (82842806) **1.50-2.20** Emmerdale (20988413) **2.50-3.20** Sons And Daughters (5883806) **5.10-5.40** Blockbusters (5087054) **6.00** Home And Away (603) **6.30** Granada Tonight (585210) **6.55-7.00** Stocking Up For Christmas (466351) **10.40** Rage Of Angels (739803) **11.35** Prisoner: Cell Block H (147993) **12.30am** Night Shift (7298235) **12.35** Film: The Killer Inside Me (2336111) **2.20** Superstars Of Wrestling (2398253) **3.00** America's Top 10 (65497) **3.30** The New Music (37340) **4.30** Riviera (77218807) **4.55-5.30** Jobfinder (7496185)

HTV WEST

As London except: 2.50-3.20 Take The High Road (5883806) **6.00** HTV News. (603) **6.30-7.00** Dust Off (555) **10.40** The West This Week (543413) **11.25** Let Loose (736806) **11.40** Magnum (144806) **12.35am** Film: The Killer Inside Me (2336111) **2.20** Wrestling (2398253) **3.00** America's Top 10 (65497) **3.30** The New Music (37340) **4.30** Riviera (77218807) **4.55-5.30** Jobfinder

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except: 1.55-2.20 A Country Practice (14419072) **6.00** Wales At Six (603) **6.30-7.00** The Really Helpful Programme (555) **10.40** A Slice Of Life (543413) **11.25-11.40** Better Late (736806)

MERIDIAN

As London except: 2.50-3.20 Shortland Street (5883806) **6.00** Meridian Tonight (603) **6.30-7.00** Time Off (555) **10.40** The Pier (902622) **11.20** Prisoner: Cell Block H (889332) **12.15am** Coach (8234727) **12.40-1.10** Beyond Reality (9612785) **5.00-5.30** Freescreen (57098)

TYNE TEES

As London except: 5.55 Tyne Tees News (781429) **6.30-7.00** Cross Wits (555) **10.35** Tyne Tees News (741603) **10.40** Woodbine Place (543413) **11.25** Prisoner: Cell Block H (888603) **12.20am** Film: Secrets (751307) **2.05** America's Top 10 (1121881) **2.35** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (6595475) **3.05** Film: Don't Ever Leave Me (659982) **4.40-5.30** Jobfinder (2354017)

WESTCOUNTRY

As London except: 9.55am-10.00 Westcountry Latest (3798871) **12.20pm-12.30** Westcountry Latest (9046142) **1.55** Wish You Were Here..? (20987784) **2.25** TV Weekly (17704413) **2.55-3.20** A Country Practice (1484993) **3.25-3.30** Westcountry Latest (9899603) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (67516) **10.30** Westcountry Latest (385581) **10.40** It's A Living (876142) **11.10** Prisoner: Cell Block H (880448) **12.05am** Jack Thompson Down Under (6184727) **12.35** Film: The Killer Inside Me (233611) **2.20** Superstars Of Wrestling (2398253) **3.00** America's Top 10 (65497) **3.30** The New Music (37340) **4.30** Riviera (77218807) **4.55-5.30** Jobfinder (7496185)

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 9.55am-10.00 Calendar News (3799871) **12.20pm-12.30** Calendar News (9046142) **3.15-3.20** Farm Fun (3600719) **3.25-3.30** Calendar News (8899603) **5.55** Calendar News (781429) **6.30-7.00** Cross Wits (555) **10.30** Calendar News (385581) **10.40** Edit V (543413) **11.25** Prisoner: Cell Block H (888603) **12.20am** Film: Secrets (751307) **2.05** America's Top 10 (1121881) **2.35** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (6595475) **3.05** Film: Don't Ever Leave Me (659982) **4.40-5.30** Jobfinder (2354017)

S4C

Starts: 7.00am The Big Breakfast (56061) **9.00** You Bet Your Life (46581) **9.30** Profiles Of Nature (29581) **10.30** All The Rivers Run (1372332) **11.25** Sandman (8877968) **11.30** Blood, Sweat And Glory (5500) **12.00pm** House To House (39245) **12.30** Slot Machyn (84239) **1.00** Travelog (66448) **1.30** Crawshaws Watercolour Studio (76210) **2.00** Film: Ten Gentlemen From West Point (546974) **3.55** Magoo Makes News (7374055) **4.00** Slot 23 (6351) **5.00** The Cosby Show (3852) **5.30** Fifteen To One (332) **6.00** Newyddion (338239) **6.20** Cwlwm Serch (870332) **6.25** Heno (861284) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (5516) **7.30** Noson Lewis (44386) **8.30** Newyddion (1871) **9.00** Seren Bethlehem (5559) **10.00** Film: Trust (3887) **12.00am** Nurses (69272) **12.30** Fourmations (1621104)

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather 7.00 On Air: Rossini (Overture, *Il Turco in Italia*); Liszt (Weihnachtsbaum, Book 2); Pez (Concerto Pastorale); Monteverdi (Cantate Domino); Bax (Winter Waters); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 26 in D, Coronation, K537)
9.00 An Advent Calendar, introduced by Hugh Keyte. Fair City Singers under Marion Nielson, with Martin Nielson, organ, and Helen Nielson, cello, perform Burney (Harkl The Herald Angels Sing) and Trad (Il est né, le divin enfant)
9.10 Composer of the Week: Elliott Carter (Elegy, A Mirror on which to Dwell, Double Concerto)
10.15 Musical Encounters, with Edward Blakeman. Reicha (Fugues: Nos 3 and 24); Smetana (Polka No 9); Howells (Fantasia); Poulenc (Christmas Motets); Mozart (Wind Serenade in E flat, K375); Mozart, arr Triebensee (La ci darem la mano, Don Giovanni); Stravinsky (Danses concertantes)
12.00 Ensemble (r)
1.00pm News
1.05 Opera Matinée: Sigurd. Ernst Reyer's four-act opera was performed this summer at the Montpellier Festival by the Montpellier Opera Chorus, the Rhine Opera Chorus and the Montpellier Philharmonic Orchestra under Günter Neuhold. With Chris Merritt as Sigurd and Valerie Millot as Brunehilde. Presented by Clive Bennett
4.20 The Cambridge Musick performs Handel (Recorder Sonata in C, Op 1 No 7); Telemann (Trio Sonata in G minor), Corelli (Sonata in F, Op 5 No 4) Telemann (Trio Sonata in D minor) (r)
5.00 In Tune, with Lyn Davies from Cardiff
7.30 London Mozart Players under Matthias Bamert perform Frank Martin (Passacaglia); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 14 in E flat, K449; Howard Shelley). **8.10** Matthias Bamert, music director, and Howard Shelley, principal guest conductor, discuss the London Mozart Players. **8.20** Mozart (Six German Dances, K509); Tchaikovsky (Serenade for Strings)
9.10 History Now and Then: Roy Porter chairs the last in a series of discussions about how contemporary concerns influence our view of the past. Barry Coward, Ronald Hutton and Conrad Russell debate whether the protagonists in the English Civil War were really fighting over religion
9.30 Brahms: Clarinet Quintet in B minor, Op 115 (Fiona Cross; Vanbrugh String Quartet) (r)
10.15 Time and Silence: A survey of jazz in Poland (r)
10.45 Night Waves: Christopher Cook discusses the first night of the RSC's production of *Macbeth*, and meets photographer Phil Stern
11.30 Voices: Ian Burnside presents a programme of songs setting poems by Paul Verlaine, sung by Gérard Souzay, Maggie Teyte, José van Dam, Pierre Bernac, Mady Mesplé and Suzanne Danco. Debussy (Trois mélodies de Verlaine; Fêtes galantes II); Ravel (Un grand sommeil noir; Sur l'herbe); Hahn (D'une prison; L'incrédule; Fêtes galantes; L'heure exquise); Fauré (La bonne chanson)
12.30am News 12.35-12.45 An Advent Calendar (as 9am)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast **6.00** News Briefing, incl **6.03** Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **6.55, 7.55** Weather **7.25, 8.25** Sports News **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 The Moral Maze: Michael Buerk investigates moral questions raised by one of the week's news stories
9.45 Aesthete's Foot: The Sea. John McKay remembers the tribulations of his Scottish upbringing in Fenton Heugh
10.00-10.30 Unofficial Rosie (FM only): In Dreams. The last of a six-part serial by Alan McDonald. Rosie (Paula Wilcox) has to decide whether to confront the murderer.
10.00 Daily Service (LW only)
10.00 The Bible (LW only): Micah. The first of two selections read by Anna Massey (r)
10.30 Woman's Hour, introduced by Jenni Murray. Serial: *The Very Dead of Winter*, by Mary Hocking (9/10) **11.00 News**
11.30 From Our Own Correspondent
12.00 News; You and Yours, with Tasneem Siddiqi
12.25pm Screenplay: Iain Johnstone hosts the film quiz. With Dick Vosburgh, Robin Ray, Nick Revell and George Baker **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with James Naughtie
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping
2.00 News; Christmas Eve Can Kill You ... A black comedy by Mane Jones. A Belfast cabbie becomes an unwitting party to the Christmas traumas of his assorted passengers
3.00-4.00 Prime Minister's Questions (LW only)
3.00 Document (FM only): Robert Service, Lenin's biographer, reveals some explosive secrets from the party archives in Moscow (r)
3.40 RSVP (FM only): Matthew Parris investigates intriguing letters that have no known reply. Today, the letter D.H. Lawrence wrote in 1912 to the husband of the woman he loved (r)
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope: Paul Allen looks at theatre books and investigates a new story-telling venture in Stratford
4.45 Short Story: What Great Events, by W. Pett Ridge. Read by Brian Gear (r)
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The Christopher Marlowe Mysteries: Another tale of Elizabethan intrigue by Ged Parsons
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Talking to Trees: See Choice
8.00 Analysis: Back to Basics? Stuart Simon asks whether British Conservatism is at a crossroads
8.45 Does He Take Sugar?, with Ted Harrison
9.15 Kaleidoscope (r)
9.45 The Financial World Tonight 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Richard Kershaw
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Bel Ami, by Guy de Maupassant. Read by Alex Jennings (4/12)
11.00 The Comedians: First of an eight-part dramatisation of Graham Greene's novel in the early 1960s, a Dutch cargo ship, carrying an ill-assorted group of passengers, is bound for Haiti (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament
12.00-12.43am News, incl **12.27** Weather **12.33** Shipping **12.43** As World Service (**LW** only)

CHOICE

Talking to Trees. *Radio 4, 7.20pm.*

No one talks *to* trees in Joy Hatwood's documentary. But everyone interviewed by Chris Barlas talks *about* them. Very special trees they are too – the giant redwoods of California, including the famous one you can drive your car through. Can there *really* be some redwoods as tall as a 25-storey building? Barlas assures us that there are, and he sounds like a reliable witness. But 25 storeys! *Talking to Trees* is, however, more than a recital of staggering statistics. It is also a peal of environmental alarm bells.

101 Dalmatians. *Radio 5, 7.15pm.*

Getting Juliet Stevenson to read this serialisation of Dodie Smith's essentially anthropomorphic tale is quite a coup for Radio 5. Any competent actress could characterise Pongo, Mrs Pongo and their owners, who they call their pets. But it takes an actress of Stevenson's calibre to breathe such evil into Cruella De Vil and, at the same time, sound as if she is having the time of her life. Perhaps it is best to forget about Disney's feature-length cartoon, entertaining though it is, when you listen to this radio version.

Peter Davalle

VARIATIONS

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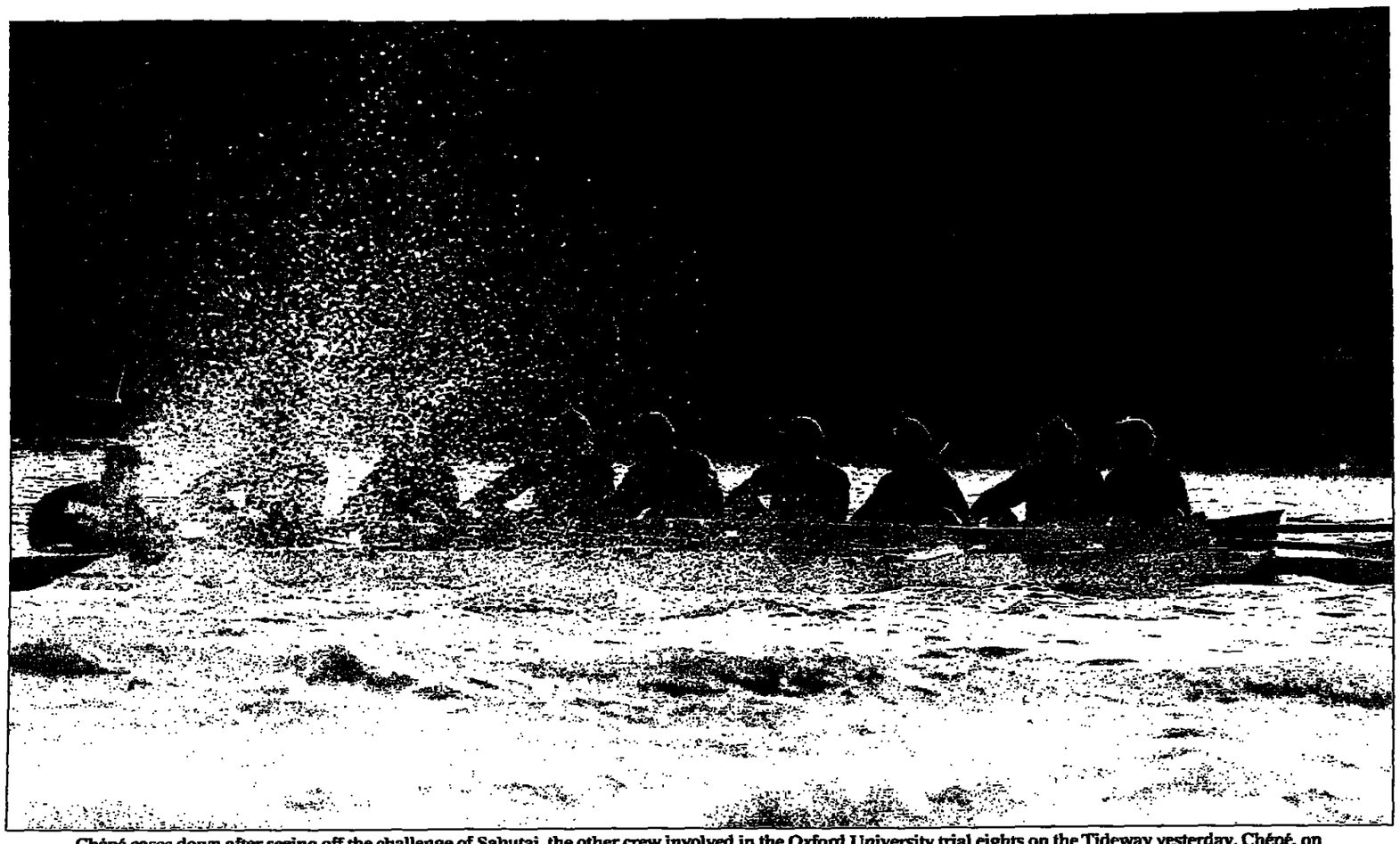
CRICKET 40
INJURED BICKNELL MAY HAVE TO RETURN HOME

SPORT

DAVID MILLER 42
ATHLETICS TRACK RECORD IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT

THURSDAY DECEMBER 16 1993

Boat Race hopefuls cross swords in Tideway trial



Chépé eases down after seeing off the challenge of Sabutai, the other crew involved in the Oxford University trial eights on the Tideway yesterday. Chépé, on Middlesex, took an early lead and had achieved clear water by Chiswick Steps but Sabutai fought back and was overlapping at the finish. Report page 40

Jury rules in favour of Winston

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN FREMANTLE

THE international jury yesterday decided to lift Brad Butterworth's American Whitbread Round The World Race yacht, Winston, from fifth place to second in the overall standings. The decision was to compensate her for time lost turning back in the Southern Ocean to aid the crew of the damaged Italian yacht, Brooksfield. However, the decision was greeted by anger and incredulity by rival teams.

Winston, which was trailing in fifth place within the Whitbread 60 fleet, 250 miles behind Lawrie Smith's leading entry, Intrum Justitia, when the Italian's distress call was picked up, was awarded 21hr 28min for her troubles, putting Butterworth's crew just a minute behind Intrum Justitia's winning time for the second leg and lifting them three hours ahead of Smith's yacht in the overall standings.

Ross Field, the skipper of the New Zealand entry, Yamaha, which was 104 miles ahead of Winston when the emergency began, was indignant that his team should be relegated to fourth place overall: "It's ridiculous," he said. "I can't see how the jury worked it out. They did not ask for submissions from any of the other skippers, yet we are all involved. It would have been fair if Winston had been just behind Galicia because that is where she was placed on the race course. Good on Brad for making the claim, but he was in the outfield anyway in a very, very bad position."

Ironically, the French crew of La Poste, the only yacht to reach Brooksfield and stand by her crew for 24 hours until a 70knot gale had swept by, remain third, the same position they were in when they turned back. The jury awarded them 2days 23hr 30min for their lost time.

Apart from the two recipients of the jury's largesse, the only people to speak out in favour of the allowances were Grant Dalton and Chris Dickson, skippers of the two class leaders overall, New Zealand Endeavour and Tokio.

Dalton said: "It is a great decision. If La Poste had been given more, you would have heard no grumble from me. It is a milestone decision. In future, boats will never hesitate to turn back and those in distress can be confident that a boat is definitely coming back for them. Nothing should be put above life."

Tempers had already been running high over allegations made by Dalton that two skippers had indicated that they might not have turned back when Brooksfield's SOS was first known. At a heated meeting between skippers and the race organisers called to investigate the matter, one skipper called on the Royal Naval Sailing Association to name names in its report.

The final document fell short of that, but stated that the broad facts, as reported, were not in dispute and that the fundamental rule requiring a yacht to render assistance when in a position to do so had not been broken.

REVISED POSITIONS

SECOND-LEG FINISHERS: Whitbread 60s: 1, Intrum Justitia (L Smith, Eur) 25days 14hr 39min; 2, Tokio (C Dickson, NZ) 25:16:39; 3, Yamaha (R Field, NZ) 25.20.27; 4, Galicia 93 Pescanova (J de la Gandara, Sp) 25:22:10; 5, Winston (B Butterworth, US) 26:12:08; 6, Heinen Sahaidachny (E Platon, Ukr) 29:18:29; 7, Women's Challenge (D Riley, US) 30:01:29; 8, Brooksfield (G Massto, It) 30.10.28. Overall: 1, Tokio 50:03.07; 2, Intrum Justitia 50:17.19; 3, Yamaha 50:17.58; 4, Galicia 93 Pescanova 50:18.41; 5, Winston 51:11:58 (subject to redress); 6, Brooksfield 58:14:03; 7, Women's Challenge 57:20:53; 8, Heinen Sahaidachny 58:01:02. Maxis: 1, Merit Cup (F Fahlmann, Switz) 25:21:11; 2, NZ Endeavour (G Dalton, NZ) 25:22.57; 3, La Poste (D Malle, Fr) 29:04:29. Overall: 1, NZ Endeavour 50:06:16; 2, Merit Cup, 50:12:53; 3, La Poste 54:22:33.

STILL AT SEA (at 07:55 GMT yesterday with miles to Fremantle), Whitbread 60s: 9, Odessa (A Verba, Ukr) 281; 10, Dolphin & Youth Challenge (M Humphries, GB) 400. Maxis: 4, Uruguay Natural (G Vanzini, Uru) 152.

Information provided by British Telecom

Ice maiden back with Olympic aim

FROM SIMON BARNES IN HERNE, GERMANY

THIS was every inch the off-duty jock, jock being an Americanism for your basic macho competitive athlete. A jock says things like "Ain't no room on the scoreboard for 'I tried, coach'," and "I've been doing a lot of weights".

Wearing a baseball cap, lumberjack shirt and a black polo-neck sweater, this was a tough athlete getting ready for the biggest game in six years. The game of a lifetime. And just the right amount of make-up, too. A jock thinks about such things.

Well, she does if the jock is Katarina Witt. Yes, the Maria that melted the ice of Sarajevo and the Carmen that steamed up the entire world's television sets from Calgary is back among us, prepared to slug it out — artistic impression at 300 paces — with all the teenaged jumping machines of the world.

Yesterday she faced the German press here in Herne, a somewhat benighted spot near Dortmund. And over the next three days she will take part in the German national championships. Carmen is going slumming.

They never come back: a cliché as old as sport. But Witt is joining the legions who have attempted to disprove it. We will soon know if she has the stuff of Muhammad Ali in her, or of Bjorn Borg. "I have a name and a reputation to lose," she said.

It is an extraordinarily difficult task she has set herself. She must climb Everest on skates. Her comeback began with an exhibition skate on her 28th birthday a fortnight back. No sooner had she started, than she fell.

Nerves, she said. "I felt bad for a few days afterwards," she said dismissively yesterday. "But I have improved every day for the past two weeks." She will have to. The comeback is all about the Winter Olympics, which take place next year in Lillehammer, Norway.

Witt turned professional after winning in Calgary all but six years ago. Now she is back on the Olympic trail, having been declared an amateur again. To make it to the games, she must come in the first three here. Will third be satisfying? "Ask me on Saturday." And after that, she must finish as one of the top two Germans in the European championships in the New Year. Only if all this happens will she be able to compete in Lillehammer.

But the trouble is that the world of competitive skating has passed her by. Artistic impression and a smile that can slay an elephant may not be enough. She will be competing against Marina Kielmann, 25, and Tanja Szewczenho, only 16, both of whom include six triple jumps in their programmes. Katarina — always more artist than jumping machine — will have but four.

"I don't have a 15-year-old body," she said, rather unnecessarily. "I have done high-performance sport for 23 years and I have problems, problems in my feet and in my back, but skating is more than a sport. I want to do it and to do it my way." The question that remains is why? She has won awards as a professional skater; she is féted wherever she goes. To return to competition is not a sound career move.

"I decided to do it because it was possible," she said. "I wanted to do the Olympics again and not wonder in 10 years time why I never tried again." She is crazy to compete, crazy for that moment when it's either you or them. Just a crazy jock, you see. One more elephant-slayer of a smile and it was back to practice. "Just do it," she said, and was gone.



Witt: return

Lowly Brighton bring in Brady

LIAM Brady, who resigned as manager of Celtic two months ago, was appointed manager of Brighton yesterday. His first match will be at home to Bradford City on Saturday. The former Arsenal and Republic of Ireland midfield player takes over from Barry Lloyd, who left the troubled club earlier this month.

Brady has a big job on his hands — to rescue Brighton, who are near the foot of the second division, their lowest league position for 19 years.

There were more than 20 applications for the Goldstone Ground job since Lloyd left and Brady becomes Albion's fifteenth post-war manager. Since Lloyd's departure, Martin Hinshelwood, the first-team coach has been in charge.

During Lloyd's stewardship Brighton made a profit of £1.2 million in transfer dealings, but the league performances have been poor.

Earlier this month Brighton escaped a winding-up order in the High Court when they met debts of nearly £600,000. David Bellotti, the chief executive, said a limited sum will be available to the new manager for team-strengthening.

More football, page 40

Bath give Clark chance at prop

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE value Bath place on Chris Clark is clear: even though Clark, 22, has been unavailable for most of this season, he goes straight in at loose-head prop on Saturday when Bath begin their pursuit of the Pilkington Cup against Wasps — the tie of the fourth round.

He replaces Darren Crompton, who was given the initial opportunity to fill the void left by the retired Gareth Chilcott, and he does so against the most experienced tight-head on the first-division circuit, Jeff Probyn. If Clark can handle this examination as well as earlier representative demands this season, a place in England's training squad, which assembles on January 15-16, seems assured.

Bath retain Ian Sanders at scrum half ahead of Richard Hill against a Wasps side missing three of their more experienced backs — Alan Buzza, Fran Clough and Chris Oti. All three are injured, which allows Huw Davies to sustain his Indian summer at full back. Wasps retain the promising Chris Wilkins, 22, at open-side flanker.

However, Bath will be less than pleased that the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) has decided to play a trial match on December 30, at a venue to be confirmed. Bath moved their home meeting with Cardiff to that day, after it was originally scheduled for New Year's Day, but clearly a trial would remove many leading Cardiff players. The WRU is also to extend the Heineken League to five national divisions next season and is investigating a second-tier club structure, which would have access to the national leagues.

The union will also seek a formal meeting with the Rugby Football Union (RFU) to emphasise its interest in an Anglo-Welsh competition — which, earlier this week, was played down by RFU officials.

Informal discussions have already taken place between four clubs from each of the two countries, Bath, Harlequins, Wasps and Leicester from England and Cardiff, Swansea, Llanelli and Neath from Wales. The WRU would like to see a tournament in place by next season with all matches being played in midweek prior to Christmas 1994. Cardiff have written to Newbridge over the eye injury received by their former Oxford University scrum-half, Andrew Moore, during the clash between the two clubs on December 5.

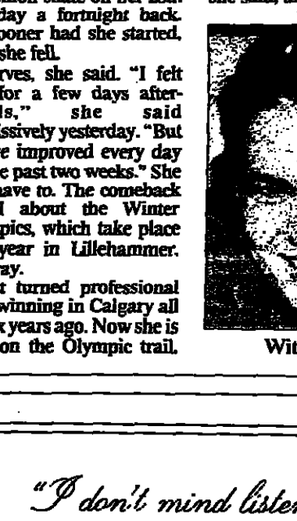
Moore is out of action until the New Year and alleges an attempt at eye-gouging. Newbridge have already stated that, after watching a video of the incident, they have found no evidence of deliberate foul play.

Cardiff, however, still want some action to be taken by the Gwent club, though Newbridge have countered by alleging stamping by a Cardiff forward.

Rugby commentary, page 39
England itinerary, page 42

"I don't mind listening to my best friends' problems. Provided they pour me a decent hearing aid."

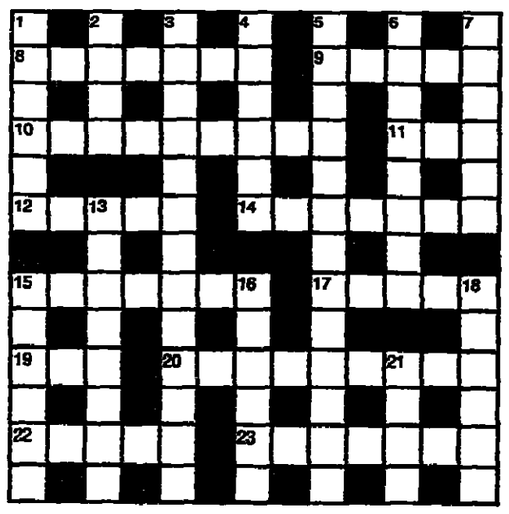
MONTGOMERY LASSAL,
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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 40

ACROSS
8 Prehistoric period (4,3)
9 Remark not for overhearing (5)
10 Very cold (9)
11 Legendary British giant (3)
12 Gag (5)
14 Complement of adenine in DNA replication (7)
15 Surgeon's cutter (7)
17 Old unit of heat (5)
19 Kentish contribution to beer (3)
20 Sharp-beaked auk (5-4)
22 Gas forming protective air layer (5)
23 Town: lesson (7)

DOWN
1 Smoked herring (6)
2 Excursion (4)
3 Unwrapping game (4,3,6)
4 Leave off (6)
5 Be in most precarious position (4,2,1,6)
6 Camouflage (8)
7 Three miles (6)
13 Sugar stirrer (8)
15 Group of disciples (6)
16 Southernmost point of Britain (6)
18 Ill-intentioned (6)
21 Sacred wader (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 39

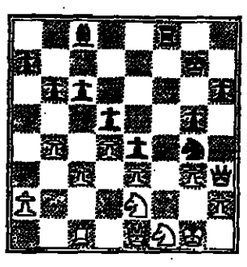
ACROSS: 1 Cuckoo 4 Avocet 9 Marital 10 Cinna 11 Laced 13 Revenue 14 Ass 15 Sever 16 Ate 17 Respect 19 Argue 21 Cut up 22 Removal 24 Tundra 25 Bonnet

DOWN: 1 Camel 2 Caracas 3 Out 5 Vice versa 6 Canon 7 Trapeze 8 Il Trovatore 12 Distemper 14 Apricot 16 Angevin 18 Sit in 20 Eclat 23 Moo

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Nigel Short has had a successful time in the Hastings Premier, finishing first in 1987/88 and 1988/89. This position is a variation from his game against Grandmaster Boris Gulko from the latter event. How would Black have forced a quick decision here?



Solution, page 39
Raymond Keene, page 8

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

MOIETY
a. Belonging to me
b. Half
c. Mercy, pity

LENIC
a. A purgative
b. A Rumanian copper coin
c. Moulding

DEROB
a. To rob or plunder
b. A padded footstool for cripples
c. A type of lucerne hay

ENCHIRIDION
a. A notebook
b. A mythical serpent
c. A sacred dance

Answers on page 39

هكذا من الأصل